



Alamance County Beekeepers

September 2018 Newsletter

September Meeting

Thursday, September 20 @ 7 PM
AO Community Center
2806 Old NC 87, Elon, NC

Getting Ready for Winter | Will Hicks *and* Honey Tasting Competition

This month we are having a joint meeting with the Caswell County Beekeepers at the AO Community Center!

The program will be in two parts. We are pleased to welcome NC Apiary Inspector Will Hicks who will present "Getting Ready for Winter."



And we will have our honey tasting competition. People who want to enter their honey into the competition should bring it in an eight-ounce bear -- no labels. Your honey will be assigned a number (for anonymity), and folks can vote for their favorite. Who will bring this year's winning honey?

Protective Measures of Beehives During Hurricanes

from Dr. David Tarpy, NCSU,
Professor and Extension Specialist (Apiculture)

- Strap down the lid and hive components if they're not propolized.
- Reduce hive wind profile by removing unnecessary boxes (feeders, for example).
- Hives should be at ground level or on sturdy stands.
- Be sure solid bottom boards are tilted to let rain out.
- Are your hives in danger of limbs or trees falling on them? Consider re-locating hives.
- Move hives from low-lying areas if there's a flooding danger; bees will drown.
- Register your hives at [DriftWatch](#) so you'll be notified if spraying for mosquitos commences.

State Fair

If you want to sign up for the bee and honey competition at the state fair, follow this link for rules and regs and signups. Saturday, 9/15, is the deadline. Entries are due the week of the fair.

<http://www.ncstatefair.org/2018/Competitions/Entering/BeesandHoneyCompetition.html>



Honey bee on garlic chives | photo by Geoff Leister

Calendar

[Pollinator Gardening Workshops](#)

September 17 and 22
Chatham County Center

Plant sales:

[Alamance County Extension](#)
[Master Gardeners](#), September 19
[Duke Gardens](#), September 29

Farm to Table
September 25-26
Cedarrock Park

Beekeeping the Foxfire Way
October 6 @ Cedarrock Park

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

Homies and Honeys :
What's Up with Our Native Bees & Honey Bees?
Geoff Leister
October 27, 10:30 a.m.
Mebane Public Library

2018

This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert & NCSBA

- Beehive population drops; drones begin their seasonal die-off.
- Leave your hive with at least 60 pounds of nectar for winter use.
- May feed thin (1:1) syrup to stimulate laying. By end of month, thicken syrup to 2:1 to be used for winter stores if you haven't left enough honey.
- Combine colonies at end of month if you have weak or failing queens.
- Continue pest control activities. Varroa treatments should be finished by end of month.
- Give thanks for fall nectar and pollen!



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

Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[The scourge of honey fraud](#), The Economist, 8/30/2018.
Domestic production of honey has not kept up with demand, so fraudsters are stepping in to fill the gap.

[Bees develop a taste for some pesticides the way humans get addicted to nicotine, say scientists](#), Bopha Phorn, ABC News, 8/30/2018. In an experiment in which bumblebees had free choice of pesticide-free food and neonicotinoid-treated food, they developed a taste for the food with neonic. See the original report [here](#).

[Why Smoking Soothes the Stressed-Out Bee Hive](#), Meredith Swett Walker, Entomology Today, 9/10/2018. "A new study that explores the effect of smoke on honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) behavior finds that smoke reduces the instance of bees releasing a venom droplet in their signaling of danger to other bees, which researchers speculate may thereby reduce the amount of alarm pheromone released."