



# Alamance County Beekeepers

March 2019 Newsletter

## Monthly Meeting

March 21 | Ag Building  
Potluck @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

## Master Beekeeping Program Cynthia Speed

Cynthia Speed has been keeping bees since 2013. She earned her Master Beekeeper certification in 2018 and is now a member of the NCSBA's Master Beekeeper Program committee.

Currently, Cynthia is the secretary for the Orange County Beekeepers Association and a past co-president. In addition to her four hives, she helps to maintain the club apiary of five hives and participates in many of the chapter outreach events. She assists with OCBA's beekeeping school and helps with mentoring every year.



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Social time and potluck @ 6:00!



## Message from Ira

Hey, Everyone,

This month's meeting we will have Cynthia Speed, a member of the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program. We will learn how this program will make all of us better beekeepers.



Bee activity is picking up and soon it will be time to put on honey supers. It also will be time to make splits (If you choose to). Make sure to prepare your swarm kit so you'll be ready to head out to catch those swarms.

Please join us at 6:00 to the covered dish dinner and 7:00 for this informative program.

See you soon !!!!!

*Ira*

## Will You Be a Mentor?

There'll be a graduating class of new beekeepers before too long. Please let Ira know if you'd like to be a mentor or go-to person to help someone navigate her or his first year of beekeeping!



## February Meeting Notes

Ira is looking for help with two-hour shifts for Homegrown in the Park, which takes place April 27th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please let him know if you can help. This works for service hours if you're working toward an "advanced degree."

Also, Alamance Libraries would like ACB to do a beekeeping program for their users. Would anyone like to help with that? See Ira.

Treasurer's report: We're in good shape.

The evening's program on queen rearing was presented by Jennifer Keller of NCSU. She finds queen rearing to be one of the most fun and interesting activities of beekeeping. If you were at the meeting, this program likely inspired you to try your hand. Thank you, Jennifer, as always, for offering your know-how in such a focused, clear, and enthusiastic way. We always learn a lot!



## We're Going to the Fair to Win: What Can You Do?

How about "Novelty Items Containing Beeswax?" Items will be judged on cleanliness; quality of wax; originality; and design, craftsmanship, and overall appearance.

What would such an item be? Beeswax wraps; fire-starters; wax sealing sticks; beeswax beads for jewelry; [pysanky](#); [biserky](#); [travlenky](#); a beeswax candle, painted and dressed like a scarecrow! There's *something* beeswaxy out there for your talents!

## Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Honey bees can help monitor pollution in cities](#), University of British Columbia, ScienceDaily, 3/11/2019. "Honey from urban bees can tell us how clean a city is and help pinpoint the sources of environmental pollutants such as lead, new research has found." Full study is linked from this article.

[Earning a bee's wings: In hives, graduating to forager a requirement for social membership](#), Talia Ogliore, The Source, Washington University in St. Louis, 2/20/2019. "A study in the journal [eLife](#) reports that honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) develop different scent profiles as they age, and the gatekeeper bees at the hive's door respond differently to returning foragers than they do when they encounter younger bees who have never ventured out before."

[Bee mite arrival in Hawaii causes pathogen changes in honeybee predators](#), Phys.org, University of California - Riverside, 1/8/2019. "A team led by entomologists at the University of California, Riverside, performed a study on the Big Island and found viruses associated with the mite have spilled over into the western yellowjacket, a honeybee predator and honey raider. The result is a hidden, yet remarkable, change in the genetic diversity of viruses associated with the larger pathogen community of the mite and wasp, with repercussions yet to be understood." See the full report [here](#).



## Blooming in the Piedmont



Honey bee collecting pollen from Paperbush,  
*Edgeworthia chrysantha*,  
March 10, Burlington.  
Photo by Geoff Leister



Honey bee on winter bloomer, Helleborus.  
Photo by Geoff Leister

Also in bloom: red maple, sugar maple, winged elm,  
henbit, deadnettle

## North Carolina Wildflower of the Year

The North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., are co-sponsors of the North Carolina Wildflower of the Year program. The project's aim is to actively promote, each year, throughout the state and region, an attractive plant that is native to the southeastern United States.

The 2019 Wildflower of the year is Narrow-leaf mountain-mint, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*.

“This stiff, erect, compact, clump-forming mint has narrow leaves subtending the flower clusters. The minty-smelling plants are 20-30 in. tall and have terminal flower clusters composed of numerous, small, two-lipped corollas varying from whitish to lavender, with purple spots.”

Blooms come in June, July, August, September. Plants grow in sun and part shade, in <6.8 pH soil. They have silvery foliage which can be rubbed on skin to repel mosquitoes. They attract birds, butterflies, and are special value to bumblebees and honey bees.

To receive a brochure and seeds of the current North Carolina Wildflower of the Year, send a self-addressed, stamped business-letter envelope to:

2019 NCWFOY  
North Carolina Botanical Garden  
Campus Box 3375, UNC-CH  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375



Photo Prairie Moon Nursery, <http://www.prairiemoon.com/>

Sources: [wildflower.org](http://wildflower.org) and [ncbg.unc.edu](http://ncbg.unc.edu)

## This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Swarming under way -- implement prevention measures (make splits, remove queen cells, "checker-board," temporarily or permanently remove current mother queen); set up "bait" hives.
- Reverse bottom two or three boxes on hive to give queen more room to lay; most bees have moved up above the bottom hive body, leaving it virtually empty. This measure also helps reduce swarming. Caution: Be careful not to split up clusters of brood when you do this. Two to three weeks after this reversal, it's likely that you'll need to reverse them again. (An alternative to reversal: simply add another hive body.)
- Assess for pest and/or disease problems (especially varroa mites, American foulbrood, and European foulbrood) and treat if needed. Treatments should be completed by early April to limit risk of contaminating honey.
- Check honey stores; feed (1:1 or thinner syrup) if needed.
- Look closely at the brood pattern; order new queen if current one failing.
- Continue to replace few frames of old/undesirable comb, if needed.
- Near end of the month, add at least one honey super; remove entrance reducers; equalize hives.



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

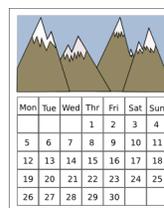
## Calendar

[Alamance County 4-H Plant Sale](#)  
through 3/29

[Spring Plant Sale](#)  
3/30, 8:00 a.m. to noon  
Duke Gardens

Homegrown in the Park  
4/27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Burlington City Park  
(Volunteer opportunity!)

[Beekeeping Institute](#)  
University of Georgia  
5/22 - 5/25



Officers for 2019

President : Ira Poston  
Vice-President : Mike Ross  
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi  
Treasurer : Zivon Price  
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson  
One-year Director : Paul Jollay  
Two-year Director : Chuck Couch  
Three-year Director : Johnny Mills  
Webmaster : Geoff Leister  
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce