



Alamance County Beekeepers

April 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

April 18 | Ag Building | 7:00 p.m.

Homies and Honeys:
What's Up With Our Native Bees and
Honey Bees?

Our very own Geoff Leister knows a thing or two about keeping honey bees, as many of you know. He is also a fan of native bees and loves sharing what he has learned about them.

His program will help us learn more about honey bees and the larger world of native bees. You will leave with a desire to make the part of the planet where you live a better place for our flying Apoidea friends.

Snacks will be provided for a social time following the program.



Sweat Bee - *Lasioglossum* spp.

Message from Ira

April is a very busy month for everyone if you have bees !!!! Thanks to Geoffrey Leister for stepping up and filling in for us by giving this month's program.



If you're a new beekeeper, you are about to receive your package(s) of bees, and if you are an existing beekeeper, you are hopefully prepared to catch a swarm.

We are looking forward to Geoff's presentation and snacks afterwards.

Ira

Volunteers Needed!

[Maker Faire Burlington](#), 4/13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Holly Hill Mall, Burlington. Contact Johnny Mills @ jxmills@lkqcorp.com or 919-612-3075.

[Homegrown in the Park](#), 4/27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Burlington City Park. Contact Ira @ ira.poston@gmail.com or 336-314-0499.



Thanks for sharing your love of beekeeping with community members in Alamance County!

March Meeting Notes

Ira called for volunteers to participate in the community events -- Homegrown in the Park and Maker Faire -- that ACB will be part of in the coming weeks and months. If you have some open time, please give! Remember, you know more than you think you do!



The evening's program topic was advanced education available through the journeyman and master beekeeping programs of NCSBA. First, Don Moore talked about how the master beekeeping program got started. Fred Deer had pushed to get a program going in NC, as other states were already on it. With the help of Dr. Ambrose, the goal was accomplished and exceeded -- a master craftsman beekeeping level was created. Don Moore is a master craftsman!



Cynthia Speed, from Orange County Beekeepers, talked about the current requirements and benefits of going through the advanced beekeeping programs. She also gave us a tour of the new-and-improved [NCSBA website](#). Note: Be on the lookout for an interactive tool to be posted soon that will help a user plan a pollinator garden!

Cynthia was a good reminder of how an interest in and curiosity about honey bees and beekeeping can lead to never-ending exploration. Thank you, Cynthia!

And, finally, if you would be willing to mentor a new beekeeper, please contact Sheyenne at sheyennem@gmail.com.



Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Impact of urbanization on wild bees underestimated](#), ScienceDaily, 3/6/2019. A [study](#) out of the University of Michigan finds that urbanization has an impact on the male:female ratio of wild bees. That difference can have an impact on mating options, as well as pollination and genetic variety.

[A movement to transform coal miners into beekeepers is great news for the planet](#), Monica Humphries, Nation-swell.com, 3/19/2019. "As coal mines shutter across West Virginia, a nonprofit is helping unemployed miners and low-income residents make money by raising bees and selling their honey. It's extra income for them and a big bonus for local ecosystems."

[Honey bee colonies more successful by foraging on non-crop fields](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service, ScienceDaily.com, 3/20/2019. "Honey bee colonies foraging on land with a strong cover of clover species and alfalfa do more than three times as well than if they are put next to crop fields of sunflowers or canola, according to a [study just published in Scientific Reports](#) by an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist and his colleagues."

[How honeybees get their jobs -- explained](#), Richie Hertzberg, National Geographic, 3/22/2019. Honey bees "rely on a mixture of genetics, hormones, and situational necessity to direct them. Honeybees are born into an occupation, and then their duties continually shift in response to changing conditions in the hive." Review of the stages of a honey bee's life. Includes video.

Blooming in the Piedmont



*Robbing Pieris japonica,
Lily of the Valley bush.
Photo by Geoff Leister*

Honey bee on purple deadnettle.

Photos by Jennifer Welsh (left) and Geoff Leister (right).

Congratulations, Graduates of Alamance Beekeepers Class of 2019!

James Allen Carl Buckland, Jr. Daniel Burgess Matthew Clapp Shannon Clapp Zabrina Crickon Kate Dallas David "Dave" Dicke Becky Fry Samuel "Marty" Harper Jordan Harper Margot Janajra Tracy Justus April Knox Julie Manning	Nancy Montgomery Kelly Ray Randy Rippie Carrie Rippie Sheryon Rogers Ben Russell Sandy Russell Sarah Stevens Steven Swanner Keith Taylor Jeff Telander Carin Thompson Barbara Tookey Jane Ulicny Jerry Wells Rene Wells
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We're Going to the State Fair & We're in it to Win it! What Can *You* Do?

Foods Cooked with Honey

All entries in this class must contain honey as one of the principal sweetening ingredients. The proportion of honey in the recipe will be a primary consideration in scoring by judges.

Entries must be prepared from ingredients compatible with commonly accepted recipes for the class in which they are entered.

Cookies Candies Snacks BBQ sauce Salad dressing		Cakes Pies Breads Muffins Rolls
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This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Nectar flow is often heaviest this month; make sure that all medications are out of hive unless required for bees' survival. Be prepared to add new supers every 7-10 days, and remove feeders from all except new or weak hives.
- Bees should be very busy; closely examine hives that are not, and trim weeds that may be hindering flight.
- Swarming usually heavy; continue prevention/capture measures.
- Look closely at brood pattern; replace queen if needed.
- Have everything ready to install nucs/packages that you've ordered; feed upon installation.
- Consider adding queen excluder to prevent brood in honey supers.



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

Calendar

[Maker Faire Burlington](#)

4/13 | 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Holly Hill Mall, Burlington

Pollinator-Friendly Shade Plants

Presented by Geoff Leister

4/17 | 10:30 a.m.
Dogwood Garden Club of Burlington

Elon's [Community Agriculture](#) Class

Leister Apiary
4/26 | 2:00 p.m.

[Homegrown in the Park](#)

4/27 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Burlington City Park
(Volunteer opportunity!)

[Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival](#)

NC Botanical Garden
5/4 | 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

[Beekeeping Institute](#)

University of Georgia
5/22 - 5/25

Pollinator Seed Mix

Some of you remember the ground-cover talk Brad Moore, from Alamance County Soil & Water Conservation District, gave at the March 2018 ACB meeting. Several beekeepers bought seed mix from the District to plant for pollinators.

Brad has said that this year SWCD will not be selling the cover crop seed mix they sold last year. He did give us a lead on a local source, [Teague's Farm and Market in Snow Camp](#) that sells a mix. Call first to make sure they have some in stock.

Also, there will be a demonstration plot again this year at Cedarrock Park. Check it out this summer!



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