



Alamance County Beekeepers

May 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Saturday | May 18 | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Blueberry Hill Apiaries
3515 Stoney Creek Church Road
Elon, NC

Club Field Day

People who were at the Field Day last year still talk about it. Not that this will be a do-over, but ... meet at Ira's apiary for hive inspections and more!



Bring a chair and protective gear.

Ira will grill hamburgers and hotdogs; water will be provided. Bring your favorite sides, condiments, or desserts, and hope for a bright day. Bad weather will delay Field Day to Sunday, 5/19 @ 2:00 p.m.



Message from Ira

This month our meeting is a Field Day and it's at my apiary. Mike Ross has secured another Log with bees in it. We will cut open the log and put the bees in a hive. Fun Fun !! We will have hamburgers and hotdogs and water. If you will bring the sides and desserts and anything else you want to drink, we'll have a good time. Bring your chairs as well. We might have time to explore one or two of my hives. Saturday, 11-3, rain date is Sunday 2-5.



Ira



Bee Hive with a View | Leister Apiary

April Meeting Notes

In Ira's absence, VP Mike Ross led the meeting. He began with announcements.

- ◆ First was about next month's meeting. Don Hopkins and Will Hicks have been invited to Field Day at Ira's. And Mike and Harvey Webb have delivered a "hurricane tree." Don't miss May's meeting on Saturday the 18th!
- ◆ Next, Cynthia announced receiving a request for speaker. Does any club beekeeper make personal care and beauty products out of natural ingredients? Would you like to teach others about what you do? If so, please let Cynthia know whether you'd ever be available to give a public program on the topic.
- ◆ Third, Mike talked some about the swarm calls he has recently gotten. If you do a good interview with your caller, it can save both of you some time. Be sure the call is something you can and should respond to.



Geoff Leister presented the evening's program, "Homies and Honeys: What's Up With Our Native Bees and Honey Bees?" As usual, Geoff's knowledge and enthusiasm and good humor are contagious, and he always shares something new and captivating with us. For example, did you know that three bee colonies live on the roof of the Notre Dame Cathedral and survived the recent fire? Geoff has added content from his talk to the club website, so be sure to check it out. Thank you, Geoff!



And remember, if you have a sudden and severe loss in your hives, talk to Don Hopkins. He'll come out and help you figure out what happened.

Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Shoot down a bee swarm in NC](#), Mike Ross, 4/22/2019. Thomas Ross shoots down a swarm from its 50-foot resting place in a tree. Video stopped when a worker bee headed up Mike's pants leg.

[Beehive Arson in Texas Kills Half a Million: 'There Goes My Honey Flow,'](#) Christine Hauser, New York Times, 5/1/2019. Was it mischief or an ax to grind in Brazoria County, Texas? This article is heavy on the loss to the humans, but doesn't show much sympathy for the bee lives burned or drowned. "As far as crimes go, it was not all that serious — there were no human deaths or injuries, not even superficial burns from the deputy's firefighting efforts ..."

[This woman left her CIA post in Pakistan to become a bee keeper](#), Editors at AOL.com, 5/6/2019. Video interview in "Profession to Passion" series.

[The untapped potential of Africa's Honey Bees](#), Heather Richardson, BBC Future, 5/8/2019. "In countries across Africa, honey bees could help protect wildlife, grow food and make money — so why aren't more people raising them?"

Seen Foraging in the Piedmont



Honey bee visiting blackberry flower
Photo by Jennifer Welsh



Honey bee visiting collard flower
Photo by Geoff Leister



Thomas Montgomery & Randy Stinson, 4/27/2019
Fun Times @ Homegrown in the Park

We're Going to the State Fair
& We're in it to Win it!
What Can *You* Do?

Photography | Beekeeping Prints

Photos will be judged on

- Photographic quality 30 pts
- Mounting 10 pts
- Content of photo 30 pts
- Caption describing photo 30 pts



This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Nectar flow continues. Keep adding supers; get extraction bottling equipment ready. Consider adding an additional hive entrance (via 5/8" hole or shim) above brood area, for foragers.
- Swarming continues---keep up prevention/capture measures. Replace failing queens.
- Start planting annuals for future nectar/pollen supplementation.
- Install traps for small hive beetles if needed (i.e., if more than 20 adult beetles seen in hive).
- Place two or more bee "watering holes" in apiary, if not already present.



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

Calendar

[Pollinator Garden Tours](#)

Begin 5/8 and continue through 10/16
Chatham Mills, Pittsboro

[Beekeeping Institute](#)

University of Georgia
5/22 - 5/25

Native Bees

Presentation by Geoff Leister
6/3, Burlington Rotary Club

[National Pollinator Week](#)

June 17-23

[Eastern Apiculture Society](#)

Summer Conference
July 15-19 in Greenville, SC

[NCSBA Summer Conference](#)

August 8-10 in Hickory



Looking for Local Queens?



Paul Jollay is raising locally mated queens in Alamance County. Call Paul at 336-213-0912 to check on availability and to reserve a queen. Only a limited supply of locally raised queens will be available.

Beez Needz, in Randolph County, is raising locally mated Wayne's queens. Call 336-431-2339 to check on availability and to reserve a queen.

John Pledger @ Triad Bee Supply also has locally grown queens. Contact him at 336-475-5137.

If you are raising queens in Alamance County and would like to be added to the resource list, please let Geoff or Cynthia know.



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