



Alamanca County Beekeepers

June 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday | June 20
Potluck @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

Lewis Cauble
Western NC Apiary Inspector

Varroa Mites

Varroa mites are busy hive pests during the summer months. Get updated on what you should be doing to help your honey bee colonies survive the pressure. Lewis will help us make sense of what needs to be done.



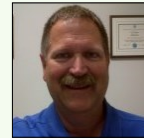
For background, take a look at [Tools for Varroa Management](#), which he referenced during an earlier talk on oxalic acid and mite management.

The evening will begin with social time and food-sharing. Y'all come!



Message from Ira

I know many of you have already taken honey off of your hives and extracted. I have yet to do that as of today. Hopefully by this weekend (maybe).



Our meeting this month is about Varroa mites. Our presenter is Lewis Cauble, one of our NC State Inspectors. This topic is timely because if you have taken your honey off, this is a good time to check your mite load. Then you should have the information you need to make a decision about "treating or not."

Yes, we will have a covered dish dinner, so please bring your dish so others can enjoy a meal.

Thanks,
Ira

[NCSBA Summer Conference](#)

Bee Scene in Hickory
Hickory, NC, August 8-10, 2019

The agenda for the conference is still in development, but will include plenty for beginning and advanced beekeepers alike. Fee for an individual NCSBA member is \$50. If you need help deciding whether to go, ask Ira!



May Meeting Notes

Notes by Geoff Leister

The grill masters, Ira & Paul, provided the hot dogs and hamburgers. That was followed by the removal of a large feral colony of honey bees from the trunk of an old oak tree. The damaged oak with bees was removed from the owner's property about three weeks ago and then moved to Ira's apiary. After the trunk was split, the feral wax comb with brood, pollen, and some honey was cut to size, removed and added and secured with rubber bands into 10 empty frames. Those were then placed into a 10-frame hive body along with the all of the bees. These nonaggressive bees eventually all marched into their new home, as shown in the last photo.



Honey bees in whole, un-opened log



Honey bees in opened log



Transfer of comb to frames



Bees on the march into their new hive

Blooming in Piedmont this Month



St. John's Wort (above) and Joe-Pye Weed (right) are favorites of honey bees and other pollinators. Both plants are native to the southeastern US.

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

Beeswax in Bulk

Judged on the following factors:

- Color: straw to canary yellow..... 20 points
- Cleanliness: absence of honey and other impurities 30 points
- Uniformity of appearance 15 points
- Absence of cracking and shrinkage 20 points
- Aroma and texture 10 points
- Size/weight 5 points



This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Main nectar flow starts to dwindle---fewer supers needed, unless sourwood nearby. If in area of sourwood, consider harvesting available honey before mid-June sourwood flow to ensure more “pure” sourwood crop.
- If honey being harvested, put “wet” supers back on hives late in day to limit robbing.
- Can start late-season splits during last half of June; feed splits initially, even if there is nectar available.
- Continue measures to control small hive beetle population.
- Keep water for bees constantly available.
- Make plans for attending NCSBA summer meeting in July.



<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA.pdf?fw=0>

Calendar

[Pollinator Garden Tours](#)

Continue through 10/16
Chatham Mills, Pittsboro

[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

North Carolina State Fair
October 17-27



Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[How Bees Find Your Flowerpots](#), C. Claiborne Ray, New York Times, 4/1/2019. They use sophisticated eyesight and signals from electrostatic fields.

[Save the bees \(and time and money\) by creating a bee lawn](#), Dean Fosdick, AP News, 5/28/2019.

[Wild bees are building their homes from plastic—and scientists aren't sure why](#), Sarah Gibbens, National Geographic, 6/5/2019. “When tasked with making their unique nests, Argentina’s solitary bees are now choosing plastic.”



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