



Alamance County Beekeepers

July 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday | July 25
Potluck @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

Adolphus Leonard
NC Apiary Inspector, Coastal Plain

State Fair Info Session

We're gearing up for October, and Adolphus will be here to help us understand how to compete at the State Fair. He'll talk about the entry options, the rules and requirements for the different categories, and what judges are looking for. This will be a great time for you to find out what you can do to be part of the fun. Sheyenne will be available at the meeting to help you register online.



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



Message from Ira

I don't know if you have been able to get into your hives the last few weeks. I can only look in the morning. It's just been too HOT. This month we have Adolphus Leonard speaking about the NC State Fair and the different categories you can enter. Hopefully he will mention something that will spark some interest in entering one of your specialties.



Please come at 6:00 to our covered dish dinner. Bring something that everyone can enjoy.

Thanks,
Ira



Honey bee on [Yellow Passionflower](#) (*Passiflora lutea*)
Photo by Geoff Leister | 7/3/2019

June Meeting Notes

- Ira called for volunteers to help with Fun Friday on August 30th.
- Ira reported that we currently have about \$4,600 in the ACB checking account.
- Lewis Cauble gave an excellent talk about sensible and practical management for varroa mites. You have to think about them from late February through early November. Lewis is optimistic that if beekeepers consistently and correctly paid attention to mite challenges, we would see many fewer colony die-offs in winter. Thank you, Lewis!



Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[The Pollinator Protection Act](#), General Assembly of North Carolina, sponsored by Senator Mike Woodard, 4/2/2019. The goal of the bill is to regulate use of neonicotinoids. [It is in committee.](#)

[A proposed N.C. bill is causing some buzz in the beekeeping community](#), Brent Van Vliet, The Daily Tar Heel, 4/10/2019. "A recently introduced bill in the General Assembly is seeking to protect bees and other pollinators in North Carolina, but some say it may not solve any problems, and perhaps might make matters worse." David Tarpy and Randall Austin offer more nuance to the discussion.

[Catch the Buzz -- Long term exposure to common pesticide damages honey bee's ability to fly](#), Bee Culture, 7/18/2019. "Biologists at the University of California San Diego have demonstrated for the first time that a widely used pesticide can significantly impair the ability of otherwise healthy honey bees to fly, raising concerns about how pesticides affect their capacity to pollinate and the long-term effects on the health of honey bee colonies."

[Bayer Launches Blue Ribbon Beekeepers, Announces Feed a Bee Grants to Celebrate National Pollinator Week](#), Press release, Bayer.us, 6/17/2019. "Company continues its commitment to bees and other pollinators by spotlighting young people impacting the industry and local groups doing their part in planting forage."

[Honey Bee Colony Losses 2018-2019: Preliminary Results](#), Bee Informed Partnership, 6/19/2019. "The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP; <http://beeinformed.org>) recently conducted the 13th annual survey of managed honey bee colony losses in the United States... During the 2018-2019 winter (1 October 2018 – 1 April 2019), an estimated 37.7% of managed honey bee colonies in the United States were lost. This loss represents an increase of 7 percentage points compared to last year (30.7%), and an increase of 8.9 percentage points compared to the 13-year average winter colony loss rate of 28.8%. This year's estimate is the highest level of winter losses reported since the survey began in 2006-2007."



Blooming in Piedmont this Month



Blunt Mountain Mint or Short-Toothed Mountain Mint
(*Pycnanthemum muticum*) and Black-Eyed Susan
(*Rudbeckia hirta*) in Leister apiary, 7/14/2019



Honey bee on Catmint
(*Nepeta cataria*)
Leister apiary, 6/17/2019 (still blooming)

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

Gift Package of Bee Products

<u>Factors</u>	<u>Points</u>
General appearance	30
Manufactured by entrant.....	15
Originality	30
Quality of components.....	10
Availability of components.....	5
Manageability (ability to transport).....	10



State Fair Registration Has Begun

If you would like to enter a competition, but are not sure how to navigate the process online, seek out Sheyenne at the monthly meeting, and she'll be glad to help!

Freshly Cut Waxed Flowers

Waxed flowers can be long-lasting and retain the fragrance and appearance of freshly cut flowers.

Line a baking sheet with foil. Melt wax. Dip flower head into melted wax for one second. Let wax drip off. Cool for 30 seconds. Lay flower on sheet for five minutes. When wax is hard, gently hold the flower and dip the stem in wax. Repeat the process for each flower.

From *The Beekeeper's Bible: Bees, Honey, Recipes & Other Home Uses*, page 395.

This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- * May harvest some (or all) of honey; may continue late-season splits; continue beetle controls; keep water available for bees (see June activities).
- * Attend NCSBA annual summer meeting, if possible -- great learning opportunity!
- * Replace failing queens; consider replacing any queen that is two years old or older.
- * Can begin annual varroa mite assessment, and treat if needed/practical.



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

Calendar

Pollinator Garden Tours

Continue through October 16
Chatham Mills, Pittsboro

Eastern Apiculture Society

Summer Conference
July 15-19 in Greenville, SC

NCSBA Summer Conference

August 8-10 in Hickory

Beekeeping Workshops @ Bugfest
NC Museum of Natural Sciences, September 21

Fun Friday | Bee Day

Children's Museum of Alamance County
Ira Poston & Chuck Couch
August 30, 10:30 a.m. to noon

North Carolina State Fair

October 17-27



Geoff Leister and his photo of sourwood flowers tell a pollination story: "Unpollinated urn-shaped flowers hang downward, but after pollination, the flowers rotate upward."



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