



Alamance County Beekeepers

August 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Saturday | August 17 | 3:00 P.M.

Ice Cream Social @
Breezy Acres Apiary
3634 Stoney Creek Church Road
Elon, NC 27244

Don and Shirley Moore invite us to their apiary!

A little over an hour will be spent inspecting hives with Nancy Ruppert, and perhaps Don Hopkins, NC Bee Inspectors. Information will be shared about re-queening, hive inspection, and other seasonal work. Nancy will have a bad-weather fallback in case of rain.



Those not going to the apiary can sit under the shade trees and socialize.



Bring your favorite ice cream or other homemade treat and a chair for "after work!"

If you can help set up tents and tables, please let Don know as soon as you can, and be there around 1:30. He'll be at 336-213-3138 (C) or 336-584-3195 (H).

Message from Ira

I can't believe that I forgot to mention our next meeting after Adolphus spoke to the group. I guess we were all caught up in registering for the NC State Fair.



Our August meeting is the Ice Cream Social at Don Moore's house. The plan is for everyone to bring their favorite home made ice cream and all of us get to decide which is our favorite. Of course people will bring cookies, cake, pies, doughnuts, but don't forget the star of the show.....Ice Cream.

For those of you that are interested, Nancy Ruppert and possibly Don Hopkins will be doing hive inspections on Don Moore's hives before we put the feedbag on. This is a good time to learn more on what you should be doing to get your hives ready for Winter. It's really our best meeting of the year. I hope you reserve that Saturday afternoon on your schedule.

I look forward to seeing everyone and don't forget to check your hives for mites.

Thanks,
Ira

July Meeting Notes

- ◇ First, thanks to all ACB members and our speaker who graciously shared the auditorium with Extension's horticulture program for part of the evening. We enjoyed a potluck picnic outside while the garden program on "shady characters" wrapped up. 
- ◇ Adolphus Leonard was our special guest, and he was asked to tell us about the Bees and Honey Competition at the State Fair. He shared good information on what terms mean. For example, what does cleanliness of extracted honey mean? He told us about tools we can use to look for "trash" in our honey. He also told us about categories that have become more competitive over time and ones that are not so competitive. He also spoke of Extension's historical involvement with State Fair competitions as an effort to encourage best practices. A very informative and encouraging program. Thank you, Adolphus. See you at the Fair! 

If you would like help registering for any competitions, contact sheyennem@gmail.com.

Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Bees are dying. Would a consumer ban on this kind of pesticide help?](#) Jacquelyn Melinek, N&O, 7/15/2019. Grassroots group Environment North Carolina delivered a 13,452-signature petition to Governor Roy Cooper's office calling for ban on neonicotinoid sales to consumers.

[Robbin' the Hood](#), Randall Austin, 8/1/2009. Read how to distinguish between first flights and robbing, how to reduce your hives' attractiveness to robbers, and how to build an entrance screen to keep robbers from having access to a target hive.

[Swarm of 25,000 Bees Removed From Staten Island Ferry Terminal by Police](#), Neil Vigdor, New York Times, 8/5/2019. The NYPD has a beekeeping unit to respond to swarm calls!



2019 Mite-A-Thon

Information contributed by Chip Allen

Between September 7 and 14, 2019, beekeepers throughout North America will be monitoring their hives' mite loads and uploading the data to mitecheck.com. The goal of the mite-a-thon is to help beekeepers become more aware of Varroa infestations through effective monitoring, and to learn more about management strategies.

There is no cost, and only one day of data collection is required during the week. Call 415-362-1137 for more information, or go to <https://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>



This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

If not in area of significant cotton bloom, harvest remaining desired honey by mid-month to keep bees from eating it.

Pest control is critical this month: hive beetle populations are peaking, Varroa mites are nearing their peak populations, some factors increase risk of damage from wax moth larvae, and yellow jackets/hornets tend to be plentiful.

Careful assessment of queen performance---this month is usually last chance to replace queens until the following spring.

Can still make late-season splits early in August if using mated queens.

Keep water available for bees constantly.

Be prepared for "badly behaving bees." Because nectar flow is so scarce, bees may become more defensive and more likely to rob other hives. Install robbing screens or entrance reducers (but be aware of need for ventilation), and keep hive inspections as brief as possible.

Completing honey harvest + decrease in queen's egg-laying = extra empty supers of drawn comb; store them using method that prevents damage from wax moth larvae (freezing, keeping open to light/ventilation, using paradichlorobenzene [PDB] crystals).

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

[fwd=no](#)



Calendar

Pollinator Garden Tours

August 13, 10:00 a.m.

August 24, 2:00 p.m.

Tours continue through October 16.
Chatham Mills, Pittsboro

National Honey Bee Day
August 17

Fun Friday | Bee Day

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

Birds * Bees * Butterflies and Growing Pollinator Gardens

Johnston County Center
September 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fall Plant Sales

Master Gardener Volunteers, September 18
NC Botanical Garden, September 27-28
Duke Gardens, September 28

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

Farm to Table *

Cedarock Park
September 24-25

Fall Festival *

Cedarock Park
October 5, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

North Carolina State Fair

October 17-27

* Volunteer opportunity



Blooming in Piedmont this Month



*Honey bee on Veronica
Jennifer Welsh*



*Goldenrod
Autumn Asters are coming!*



*Passiflora incarnata
Passionflower
Photo by Debbie Roos*

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

Extracted Honey

<u>Factors</u>	<u>Points</u>
Density (water content above 18.6% disqualified)	
Absence of crystals	13
Cleanliness	34
Flavor	13
Accuracy of filling & uniformity	25
Container appearance	15
TOTAL	100

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