



Alamance County Beekeepers

October 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday | October 17
Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Auditorium of the Ag Building

Whitney Barnes
Person County Beekeeper

Products of the Hive

Whitney Barnes and her family have been keeping bees in Person County ever since in 2012 her daughter announced she wanted to be a beekeeper and took them all along for the ride! Currently they have around 60 hives in both Person and Granville counties. Whitney's love of crafting drew her to the beeswax and all the things she could make out of it. She continues to expand her exploration of all types of hive products and what she can do with them.



There'll be time after the program to enjoy a little social time and a snack.



In It to Win It



Zivon Price and Johnny Mills building structures for the ACB State Fair exhibit.



What is Linda Leister up to, growing these pollinator-friendly herbs?

September Meeting Notes

In September, we welcomed our neighbors, Caswell County beekeepers, to our monthly meeting and honey-tasting. The president of Caswell's group, Robert Neal, told us a bit about their group's history, and about the involvement of Don Moore and Ken Pipes in that history. Good beginnings.



Ira solicited volunteers for all upcoming public activities, and filled every vacancy. Thanks go to all volunteers.

Nancy Ruppert flew in with grace, humor, and good will, and presented us with the challenge of understanding how to keep honey bees alive through the winter, and then *doing it*. With knowledge and care, we should be able to. Please be sure to use the resources of [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#), if you don't already. And meditate on this: If you don't have time to take care of bees the way they need it, perhaps it would be better to wait and try beekeeping again when you *do* have more time. They deserve our best efforts.

There were 15 fabulous entries into the honey-tasting competition. Congratulations to Roma Lloyd, our winner!



Farm to Table, Cedarock Park, 9/24/2019. Randy Stinson, Jane Ulicny, Jeff Telander, Chuck Couch, and Ben Russell shared the buzz about honey bees with 400 area 4th-graders. Tom Montgomery, Larry McCauley, Charles Black, and Mike Ross (photographer) continued the know-how sharing on 9/25/2019. Lucky 4th-graders!



Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Hive mind: UNCG Plant and Pollinator Center opens](#), Susan Kirby-Smith, UNCGNow, 9/9/2019. UNC Greensboro has opened "a new state-of-the-art research facility that serves as a home to some of the most crucial research – and community education – that relates to pollinators, plants, and our global food supply."

[Scientist train sniffer bees to detect explosives and radioactive materials](#), Chrissy Sexton, Earth.com, 9/3/2019. "In a project funded by NATO Science for Peace and Security, experts are training bees to locate explosives, radioactive metals, and drugs."

[To save honey bees we need to design them new hives](#), Derek Mitchell, The Conversation, 9/12/2019. The author is a mechanical engineer who has applied techniques usually used to solve industrial problems to study heat loss and humidity loss in bee hives. He makes the case that our standard hive design should more closely resemble the one bees use when they build a home in the wild. A bee-designed home is not as conducive to *Varroa* growth as the hives we use.

[Beekeeper groups sue EPA over pesticide decision](#), Sam Fossum and Ellie Kaufman, CNN, 9/23/2019. "The Pollinator Stewardship Council, the American Beekeeper Federation and beekeeper Jeff Anderson, who are represented by Earthjustice, have asked the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the EPA's decision earlier this summer to rollback (sic) several restrictions around the pesticide sulfoxafloz, which were put in place under the Obama administration over concerns it might be contributing to plummeting bee populations."

[USDA will resume honeybee survey suspended this summer](#), Sam Fossum, CNN, 9/13/2019. "The US Department of Agriculture will resume data collection for its annual Honey Bee Colonies report on October 1 -- the start of a new fiscal year -- after suspending the survey earlier this summer over budget constraints. While researchers welcome the decision to resume the survey, some caution that it will leave a critical gap in this year's data."



Fall Festival @ Cedarrock Park on October 5.
Thanks to the following beekeepers for participating at the Fall Festival this year:
Randy Stinson, Carrie Rippie, Randy and Roma Lloyd, Tom and Nancy Montgomery, Charles Black, Mike and Luther and Judy Ross, Michael Alexandre, and Chip Allen.

Blooming in the Piedmont



Thank goodness for asters in the fall!

This Dwarf Tatarian Aster 'Jin Dai' is loved by butterflies and bees alike. For a closer look, visit the gardens around the Alamance County Agricultural Building.

Calendar

Pollinator Garden Tours

October 16 @ 5:00 p.m.
Chatham Mills, Pittsboro

Chatham Mills Fall Plant Sale

October 12, 8:00 a.m. to noon

Science, Technology & Health Day
Geoff and Linda Leister, Tony Abbruzzi
Smith Elementary
October 16, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

North Carolina State Fair

October 17-27



This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Post-treatment assessment for Varroa mites (i.e., did your treatment work?).
- Remove all queen excluders, if present.
- Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter food stores.
- Limit frequency of inspections after mid-October. Bees are sealing cracks with propolis, and waste lots of time/energy if they have to keep replacing it.
- Add entrance reducers near end of month to keep mice out.
- Drones being expelled in most hives.
- Plant (in October and November) herbaceous perennials for future nectar/pollen sources.

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

Time to Vote for ACB Officers!

Make your nominations (nominate yourself!) at the October meeting, and we'll vote in November. All offices -- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Three-Year Director, as well as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor -- are open for nominations. Wouldn't *you* like to get more involved? It's a great way to learn more about beekeeping! Please let it be known if you are interested in any of these positions.



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