



Alamanace County Beekeepers

April 2016 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting
April 21st | 7:00 p.m.
Potluck @ 6:00 p.m.

Nancy Ruppert
Swarms & Splits

North Carolina State Inspector Nancy Ruppert will talk to us about a topic on all our minds this time of year. Refresh your thinking and find out what you need to know.



This month's meeting will be preceded by a 6:00 social time and potluck. Please bring a covered dish and join your fellow beekeepers for an evening of sharing and learning.

Beehive Registry

Press release from the
NC Department of Agriculture



“The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has joined 13 other states in partnering with FieldWatch, an online mapping service to help prevent crop damage and bee deaths due to accidental/unintended pesticide drift. Producers of horticultural and organic crops can map their field location using the DriftWatch program. As a companion program, **BeeCheck** will allow hive owners to map the locations of beehives. Pesticide applicators can access both databases before treating a field to identify sensitive sites that are close to the spray areas.”

<http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2016/FieldWatch.htm>

<http://www.ncagr.gov/pollinators/Driftwatch.htm>

This Month in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

Nectar flow is often heaviest this month: make sure that all medications are out of hive unless required for bees' survival. Be prepared to add new supers every 7-10 days, and remove feeders from all except new or weak hives.

Bees should be very busy; closely examine hives that are not, and trim weeds that may be hindering flight. Swarming usually heavy — continue prevention/capture measures.



Look closely at brood pattern; replace queen if needed.

Have everything ready to install nucs/packages that you've ordered; feed upon installation.

Consider adding queen excluder to prevent brood in honey supers.

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

Notes from March's Meeting

If you didn't get a chance to attend the meeting, you can learn about Caydee Savinelli's presentation on collaborations to protect pollinators by going to the Honey Bee Health Coalition's website: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org>

One of the takeaways was the importance of talking to people who might have viewpoints in opposition to yours. In conversation, people can learn and understand and figure out win-wins. Ms. Savinelli showed parts of this video on job-swaps that gave stakeholders experience in walking in the other person's shoes, so to speak. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7Xy60drw9M&nohtml5=False>



WANTED: Persimmon Ice Cream

Chuck Perkins is trying to find out who brought the exquisite persimmon and honey ice cream to the August 2015 meeting at Don and Shirley Moore's house.

If you are the creator of that delicacy, please contact Chuck by email, chucktracy@gmail.com.

Thank you!



Annual Survey Conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership is LIVE

The Bee Informed Partnership's 2015-2016 National Colony Loss and Management Survey is underway April 1-30. If you would like to submit information on how you've managed your bees over the last year, and what the results have been, please consider submitting data for this survey.

Data collection is online only, but a survey preview can be printed for the convenience of collecting thoughts and information beforehand:

<https://beeinformed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2015-2016-Loss-and-Management-Survey-PREVIEW.pdf>



For more information, visit <https://beeinformed.org>

Early Bloomer in the Piedmont

Mike Ross forwarded an article about Bradford Pear trees that was published on GreenvilleOnline at the end of March. This tree has been a topic of conversation in beekeeper meetings from time to time, and it seemed to me that all of you might find it worthwhile to learn more about this beautiful menace. <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/life/2016/03/21/curse-bradford-pear/82070210/>

A look at information provided by the Extension Service backs up what Mr. Ashmore wrote in the GreenvilleOnline article. The trees will cross-pollinate with other pear trees, and their progeny often form thorny thickets that will become invasive and choke out native trees. In this article, Karen Neill offers good alternative trees for our Piedmont landscapes. <https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/2013/10/bradford-pear-a-mixed-blessing-in-the-landscape/>



And since Bradfords offer little to no benefit to honeybees — though bees will visit their early-season blossoms — there seems to be little to recommend planting these trees. Live and learn, right?

Homegrown in the Park

This annual event, sponsored by the Farm Bureau, was held on a blustery April 9th at City Park in Burlington. Thanks to intrepid volunteers who manned the table and shared their knowledge of the the world of honeybees with the public. Disappointingly, the event was affected by the persistent and driving winds, so it closed earlier than scheduled.



Geoff Leister reported that the Farm Bureau provided a supply of “For Farmers: Know Your Beekeeper” brochures. That brochure and others are available in the Downloadables section of the Protecting NC Pollinators website : <http://ncagr.gov/spcap/bee/> Feel free to share.

Bees in the News

Maryland Senate OKs restrictions on pesticides to help bees, Pamela Wood, 3/9/2016, Baltimore Sun. The State Senate approved a bill that will prevent customers from being able to buy neonicotinoids, starting in 2018. The House has yet to vote on the bill.

Conservationists betting on bees to ease clash of humans and elephants, Oliver Milman, 1/3/2016, The Guardian. “A fence made of beehives is being constructed around a one-acre farm close to the Ngorongoro conservation area as part of the pilot project to see if the buzzing bees will deter elephants that stroll on to cropland.”



Officers for 2016

President : Ira Poston
Vice President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Angela Schick
One-year Director : Larry McCauley, Jr.
Two-year Director : Wayne Foulks
Three-year Director : Randy Stinson

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce