



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for July 2015

Monthly Meeting
July 16 @ 7:00

Allergies and Reactions to Stings

Paul Juengel III, MD,
FACS, of Alamance
Ear, Nose & Throat,
will talk to us about
reactions to stings.



Sometimes it's just not the right time to tend bees, so we get resistance in the beeyard. Other times, we make mistakes of attention. From time to time, we can just be surprised ... Find out what is known about being sting-safe. And bring your questions!

State Beekeeper Conference at Lake Junaluska

July 9, 10, and 11

Conference workshops will satisfy a wide range of interests, offering something for everyone. We know a few of the topics so far:



- History of Beekeeping
- Private World of the Honeybee
- Desperate World of the Laying Worker Colony
- Do I Need a Queen?
- Top Bar Hives
- Pollinator Protection Plan
- Exploring Honeybee Disease Using Microscopy

For more information, visit the NCSBA web site:

<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/education/statewide-conferences/2015-ncsba-summer-conference/>

Beekeeping the Foxfire Way and Now

Cedarrock Park on June 20th

It was a rare last day of spring ... warm and breezy ... and a beautiful setting. Ira Poston and Paul Jollay spoke to an eager group of more than two dozen people about old-time and modern ways of tending bees. Paul had built a 'gum' — that's what old-timers in the mountains still call them — and told why this type of hive is now illegal. Both men fielded questions about honey and allergies and queens and threats and life expectancy and mating and worker jobs and drones in winter and more. The two lads on the front row of the audience will surely be beekeepers in future. Thanks to knowledgeable members of our community, beekeeping lore, history, and interest is kept alive in Alamance County and beyond. Nice job, Ira and Paul!



To learn more about Foxfire, check out their web site: <https://www.foxfire.org/index.html> For more info on programs in the local Foxfire series, visit the special events section of the Recs-Park page, <http://www.alamance-nc.com/recreation/>.

Sponsored by the Alamance County Recreation Parks Department and the Public Libraries

Bees in the News

Honey bee behavior altered by insecticides, Scott Schrage, Phys.org, 5/29/2015. "Certain insecticides common to U.S. orchards appear to make honey bees substantially less busy, according to a new study led by UNL [University of Nebraska - Lincoln] entomologists ... The study suggests that exposure to sub-lethal doses of insecticides known as pyrethroids may reduce honey bee movement and social interaction."

<http://phys.org/news/2015-05-honey-bee-behavior-insecticides.html#jCp>

Colony Loss 2014 – 2015: Preliminary Results, Bee Informed, 5/13/2015. "Responding beekeepers reported losing 42.1% of the total number of colonies managed over the last year (total annual loss, between April 2014 and April 2015). This represents the second highest annual loss recorded to date." Article includes map. NC shows 41.5% loss.

<http://beeinformed.org/2015/05/colony-loss-2014-2015-preliminary-results/>

Renaissance Asheville Hotel puts bees on the roof, Caitlin Byrd, Citizen-Times, 6/11/2015. Hotel wants to do its part to celebrate Asheville as a Bee City USA. Asheville is among a number of cities nationwide where hotel rooftop bee hives are maintained.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/money/business/2015/06/11/renaissance-asheville-hotel-puts-bees-on-the-roof/71066214/>

Burt Shavitz, cantankerous hippie co-founder of Burt's Bees, dead at 80, Justin Wm. Moyer, Washington Post, 7/6/2015

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/07/06/burt-shavitz-cantankerous-hippie-co-founder-of-burts-bees-dead-at-80/>

Thanks to Geoff Leister for contributions!



This Month in the Bee Yard

from Beekeeper Course Manual

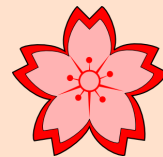


- Collect your supplies and your thoughts. It's time to remove surplus honey!
- After honey supers are cleaned, protect them from wax moths.
- Check for tracheal and varroa mite levels and consider treatment approaches.

Notes from June's Meeting

Pollinator Seeds

Scott Oakley brought about 750 packages of pollinator wildflower mix that were donated by Bayer CropScience. Let Ira know if you'd like some of the seed packs ... there were leftovers.



Supplies

Keith Elkes told us the store hours for his operation. That info and more can be found at his web site, <https://beezneedz.com/>.



Program

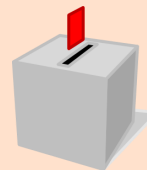
Geoff Leister and Don Moore told us what we need to know to extract honey from our hives. We got to see the process at a 25+ hive operation where there is a dedicated space for extracting, and the equipment that goes with it. And we got to see a great option for people who have just a few frames to extract. Don mentioned that a shopper might be able to get a good deal on equipment at the beekeeper conferences; vendors don't particularly like to transport all their equipment back to the home office ...



If you would like a PDF copy of this excellent presentation [recommended], go the ACB web site, and drop Geoff a note [click on **About Us** and then **Contact Us**].

Raffle

John Pledger [<http://triadbeesupply.com/>] donated a queen bee, and Keith Elkes donated a set of sieves for raffle at the end of the meeting. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to John and Keith!



North Carolina Hive Monitoring Network Project

Alex Jones, of Apiara Hive Technologies [Portland, ME] contacted Ira to invite local beekeepers to be part of a North Carolina Hive Monitoring Project. The mission of Apiara is to make it easier for backyard beekeepers to understand the health and performance of their bees. This is accomplished through use of a web-connected system of scales to monitor the weight of colonies throughout the day.

The organization has a grant that covers 90% of the cost. They are seeking 50 NC beekeepers who can monitor two hives each. There is a registration fee of \$150.

More information can be found at
Apiara's web site,
<http://www.apiara.com/ncproject/>



Blooming in the Piedmont this Month

Butterfly weed * Milkweed * Clover
Crape myrtle * Asters * Beautyberries
Coneflowers * Mimosas * Joe-pye weed
Honeysuckle * Passionflower
Mountain mint



An Idyl of the Honey-bee

John Burroughs

THERE is no creature with which man has surrounded himself that seems so much like a product of civilization, so much like the result of development on special lines and in special fields, as the honey-bee. Indeed, a colony of bees, with their neatness and love of order, their division of labor, their public-spiritedness, their thrift, their complex economies, and their inordinate love of gain, seems as far removed from a condition of rude nature as does a walled city or a cathedral town ... Yet the fact remains that the honey-bee is essentially a wild creature, and never has been and cannot be thoroughly domesticated. Its proper home is the woods ...



To read the rest of this essay by American naturalist John Burroughs, find it at <http://www.bartleby.com/109/22.html>



Officers for 2015

President : Ira Poston
Vice President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Mary McGinty
Treasurer : Randy Stinson
Program Chair : Don Moore
1st Year Director : Randy Stinson
2nd Year Director : Larry McCauley, Jr.
3rd Year Director : Wayne Foulks

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce