



JUNE 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

### Remember...

Saturday meeting this month!  
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What's Blooming in the Piedmont?

Sumac  
Persimmon  
Alsike Clover  
Ladino, white clover  
Vetch  
Sweet Clover  
Sourwood

*Alamance County Beekeepers*

## This month's meeting...

"Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 14th at 6:30 PM at the Alamance County Cooperative Extension Offices, 209-C N Graham-Hopedale Rd., Burlington, NC. The Apiculture Program at NC State will be holding our third webinar on bees and beekeeping through Cooperative Extension's Elluminate software package. This event will be hosted by the Montgomery County Beekeepers. Dr. David R. Tapy, Associate Professor and Extension Apiculturist, Department of Entomology, North Carolina State University will present: **Making summer splits that can overwinter**. The past two recorded webinar's can be found at the following link:

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/apiculture/webinars.html>"

### A Scout Thank You...

Thank you for sharing your time, energy and interest with the 1,500 Arrowmen (Boy Scouts, Venture Scouts and volunteer leaders) at the 2012 Cardinal Conclave at Cherokee Scout Reservation last month. We continue to receive positive comments about the quality of the exhibits and the helpfulness of our exhibitors and the interest they shared through their exhibits with our Arrowmen. Everyone agrees it was an outstanding event and your participation was essential to our success.

We are truly grateful that you traveled to Camp Cherokee and spent time with us and I wanted to make sure you were given a proper thank-you on behalf of all of our Arrowmen. I do hope you found it a rewarding experience and that our Arrowmen showed a corresponding level of interest and enthusiasm for the information you shared.

The Conclave, and its events such as OAX (Order of the Arrow Experience), is organized and conducted by our youth members, with advice from adult members like me. I hope you had a chance to meet the Vice-Chief of Training, Gavin Call, an Eagle Scout and high-school senior from Washington, NC, who was responsible organizing OAX – I know he joins me in extending our thanks.

Gavin has created a survey for our exhibitors, to find out the things we did well and probably more importantly, the things we can improve upon next year. I ask you to follow the link below to access the survey and if time allows, please provide your feedback and submit the survey so next year's event can be even better.

Here's the link to the survey:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFhpU2lPa0xXazNrTklGQm9oaGZ5TUE6MQ>

Speaking of next year's event, the 2013 Conclave will be held at Occaneechee Council's Camp Durant near Pinehurst during the third weekend in April; OAX will be on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> and I am sure we would welcome your participation - the Vice-Chief for 2013 is Jake Orr from Topsail Beach and his adviser is Sam Pitts, so don't be surprised if you hear from one of them asking you to join us again.

Please contact me if you have any questions or additional comments about your experience at Camp Cherokee.

Thanks again for being part of the Order of the Arrow Experience.

**Yours in Cheerful Service,**

**Al Patrick,** 2012 Training Adviser

**Section SR - 7B, Order of the Arrow**

## READ THESE CLUES AND SEE IF YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS.....

I AM ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN THE COUNTY. DURING THE PEAK OF THE PRODUCTION SEASON I HAVE OVER 300,000 WORKERS.

MY EMPLOYEES PRODUCE THEIR PRODUCT AND RAISE THEIR YOUNG IN THE SAME PLACE, WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR THEM.

THE PRODUCT MY WORKERS PRODUCE IS MAINLY FROM GOODS COLLECTED QUIETLY FROM MY NEIGHBORS YARD. EVEN WHEN THEY NOTICE THE WORKERS ON THEIR PROPERTY THEY DON'T COMPLAIN BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE DOING THEM A SERVICE

THESE WORKERS RECEIVE NO PAY FOR THEIR HARD WORK. ALL THEY WANT IS FREE HEALTH CARE AND PLENTY OF ROOM TO WORK AND RAISE THEIR YOUNG.

THEY ARE SO DEPENDABLE THAT THEY MAKE UP THEIR OWN WORK SCHEDULE.

THE WORKERS HARDLY EVER CAUSE TROUBLE EXCEPT FOR A BAD ATTITUDE OCCASIONALLY. THIS SEEMS TO BE WORSE WHEN THE WEATHER IS RAINY AND/OR COLD

AS AN EMPLOYER, ALL I WANT FROM THE EMPLOYEE' IS SOME OF THEIR PRODUCT ONCE A YEAR TO HELP PAY FOR THEIR HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE.

### How hidden flower features are crucial for bees

As gardeners get busy filling tubs and borders with colourful bedding plants, scientists at the Universities of Cambridge and Bristol have discovered more about what makes flowers attractive to bees rather than humans. Published today in the British Ecological Society's journal *Functional Ecology*, their research reveals that Velcro-like cells on plant petals play a crucial role in helping bees grip flowers – especially when the wind gets up.

The study focuses on special cells found on the surface of petals, whose stunning structure is best seen under an electron [microscope](#). According to lead author, Dr Beverley Glover: "Many of our common garden flowers have beautiful conical cells if you look closely – roses have rounded conical petal cells while petunias have really long cells, giving petunia flowers an almost velvety appearance, particularly visible in the dark-coloured varieties."

Glover's group previously discovered that when offered snapdragons with conical cells and a mutant variety without these cells, bees prefer the former because the conical cells [help](#) them grip the flower. "It's a bit like Velcro, with the bee claws locking into the gaps between the cells," she explains.

Compared with many garden flowers, however, snapdragons have very complicated flowers; bees have to land on a vertical face and pull open a heavy lip to reach the nectar so Glover was not surprised that grip helps. But she wanted to discover how conical cells help bees visiting much simpler flowers.

"Many of our garden flowers like petunias, roses and poppies are very simple saucers with nectar in the bottom, so we wanted to find out why having conical cells to provide grip would be useful for bees landing on these flowers. We hypothesised that maybe the grip helped when the flowers blow in the wind."

Using two types of petunia, one with conical cells and a mutant line with flat cells, Glover let a group of bumblebees that had never seen petunias before forage in a large box containing both types of flower, and discovered they too preferred the conical-celled flowers.

They then devised a way of mimicking the way flowers move in the wind. "We used a lab shaking platform that we normally use to mix liquids, and put the flowers on that. As we increased the speed of shaking, mimicking increased wind speed, the bees increased their preference for the conical-celled flowers," she says.

The results, Glover says, give ecologists a deeper insight into the extraordinarily subtle interaction between plant and pollinator. "Nobody knew what these cells were for, and now we have a good answer that works for pretty much [all flowers](#)," she concludes. "It's too easy to look at flowers from a human perspective, but when you put yourself into the bee's shoes you find hidden features of flowers can be crucial to foraging success."



### Queso Mexicano with Chipotle-Honey Sauce (makes 6-8 servings)



- 1/4 cup pure honey
- 7 oz. chipotle chile, if canned, drain and cut up
- 2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 lb. queso fresco (Mexican-style fresh cheese)

Cut cheese into small cubes and place on either a shallow serving dish or deep dish and set aside. In a blender or food processor, blend chipotle chile with vinegar. Slowly add honey and olive oil. Continue blending until mixture has a thick sauce consistency. Pour sauce liberally over the cheese cubes. Place toothpicks on cheese cubes and serve. Keep remaining sauce for dipping.



### Golden Honey Margarita

(makes 1 beverage)

- 1 oz. gold tequila
- 1/2 oz. Triple Sec
- 1 oz. Honey Simple Syrup (see below)
- 2-1/2 oz. sweet & sour or margarita mix

Shake well with ice, and strain into a large cocktail glass with a salted rim. Garnish with a lime wheel.

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## From Paul Bedard, in The Washington Examiner, April 2012

The keeper of the first-ever White House beehive officially retired from [the government](#) this week, buzzing June Carter Cash’s “Will you miss me when I’m gone?”

That’s because Charlie Brandts, who was a White House carpenter when the first family’s chef Sam establish a hive near the Michelle Obama’s veggie garden in March 2009, plans to devote his retirement to beekeeping and will continue to oversee the multi-colored hive on the South Lawn.

While honey bees don’t need daily attention, the White House reveals that they have established a help Brandts or take care of any emergency: pastry chefs Susie Morrison and Bill Yosses. “The hive day-to-day care, so Charlie will still be doing the primary work on it with Susie and Bill helping,” says a House aide.

Kim Flottum, the editor of the industry publication *Bee Culture*, said that the new beekeeping arrangement is fine. “They work close together,” he tells Secrets. Brandts agrees. “We’re like in a partnership,” he says worked at the White House for 28 years, starting during the Reagan years, and is a 35-year federal employee.

Spring and summer are the most intensive time to tend bees during which the hives expand after winter and begin making babies and honey.

Over the three years, Brandts says the White House hive has been an all-star honey producer, giving easily twice what a typical hobby hive makes. The reason, he explains, is the country-like setting around the White House which is populated with trees, annuals and ponds. “It’s like a Shangri La for bees.”

When [the Obamas](#) arrived at the White House and began talk about establishing a garden, Brandts approached by Kass and the idea took off fast. Brandts, who tends bees in neighboring Maryland, established hive to the South Lawn where it has thrived ever since.

The honey has been used as gifts, to make beer and in daily meals for the first family as well as fancier formal dinners.

Surprisingly, there hasn’t ever been a [major](#) problem with having so many bees in such a public place. events like the Easter Egg Roll, when thousands of people swarm the South Lawn. On days like that, the hive is closed up and the bees kept cool with screens on the top and entrance, and occasional squirts of water, a typical beekeeping practice.

### Honey Banana Roll-ups

#### **Makes 2 servings**

- 2 wheat tortillas
- 1/4 cup pure honey
- 1/3 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries or mixed dried fruit
- 2 ripe bananas

Preheat oven to 350°F.\* Place tortillas on a foil-lined baking sheet. Mix honey, peanut butter and cranberries in a bowl until

#### **ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS 2012 OFFICERS**

- IRA POSTON, PRESIDENT
- MIKE ROSS, VICE PRESIDENT
- JAN FOULKS, TREASURER
- PENNY BONDURANT, RECORDING SECRETARY
- CAMILLE THOMAS, PROGRAM CHAIR
- EDDIE THOMAS, 1-YEAR DIRECTOR
- PAUL JOLLAY, 2-YEAR DIRECTOR
- DON MOORE, 3-YEAR DIRECTOR



blended. Spread honey mixture over tortillas to within 1/2-inch of edges. Place peeled banana on edge of tortilla; roll up.

Repeat with remaining banana and tortilla. Place both seam side down and wrap foil around roll-ups, sealing all edges.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until filling is warm. \*Heating roll-ups is optional