



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for June 2015

Monthly Meeting
June 18th @ 7:00 pm

Honey Removal and Extraction

Club members
Geoff Leister and Don Moore
will present a program on the
removal and extraction of honey.
It's that time!

Bring your questions
for Geoff and Don,
and be ready to learn something new!



Saving Our Pollinators
June 15—October 3



During the next few months,
North Carolina Botanical Garden
will present a series of workshops,
exhibits, talks, and tours to highlight
the importance of pollinators and the
challenges to their future.

For schedule and more info:
<http://ncbg.unc.edu/pollinators/>

This Month in the Bee Yard from Beekeeper Course Manual

If you are planning to move your bees
to the mountains, you may be able to
produce a second honey
crop, as the sourwoods and
basswoods will be in bloom
later this month.



Bees in the News

A Smelling Bee? Layne Cameron and Zachary Huang, Michigan State University, 6/3/2015, <http://bit.ly/1BT57CJ> “New research has revealed that Varroa mites, the most serious threat to honeybees worldwide, are infiltrating hives by smelling like bees ... Conversely, bees are adapting to detect these invaders ... Results give a clear illustration of an arms race between the parasites and the host bees based on chemical mimicry and its detection. ”

The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, Pollinator Health Task Force, 5/19/2015, <http://1.usa.gov/1HpQhlf> Strategy lays out current and planned Federal actions to reduce honey bee colony losses during winter, increase Eastern population of Monarch butterflies, and restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over the next five years through Federal actions and public/private partnerships.

A Sharp Spike in Honeybee Deaths Deepens a Worrisome Trend, Michael Wines, New York Times, 5/13/2015, <http://nyti.ms/1JL2R5h> “In an annual survey released on Wednesday by the Bee Informed Partnership, a consortium of universities and research laboratories, about 5,000 beekeepers reported losing 42.1 percent of their colonies in the 12-month period that ended in April. That is well above the 34.2 percent loss reported for the same period in 2013 and 2014, and it is the second-highest loss recorded since year-round surveys began in 2010.”

Bees Go to Town as Popularity of Urban Beekeeping Grows, Katie Quine, Our State, 5/22/2015, <http://bit.ly/1AZo8Z3> Leigh-Kathryn Bonner, NCSU grad and former student of Dr. John Ambrose, founded Bee Downtown, a Durham-based “nonprofit that seeks to increase public awareness of the importance of honeybees and combat Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) through urban beekeeping.”

Environmental Outlook: New Efforts to Support the Ailing Bee Population, Diane Rehm Show, 6/3/2015, <http://bit.ly/1HKSSDY> A panel of experts discuss challenges facing pollinator populations and efforts to help them survive.

Thanks to Geoff Leister for the news feeds!



Blossoms in the Piedmont this Month

In the Appalachian mountains, Sourwoods are often 50 feet tall. They seem to prosper there, and that is where beekeepers put their hives when they want to create sourwood honey. Here in the Piedmont, Sourwoods are typically smaller, usually not more than 30 feet tall. In our native forests, they often take on contorted shapes as their trunks bend toward holes in the canopy where they can receive sunlight. But they will grow straight, tall, and lovely if you simply site yours where it is sheltered from hot summer sun, but receives good morning sunlight.

Clusters of bell-like pure white flowers adorn the tips of branches in June and July, making this native a great way to extend the blooming period of trees in your landscape. Fall leaf color, which begins earlier for this native than most, is drop-dead gorgeous deep scarlet. Its distinctive deeply furrowed bark, plus its tendency to hold on to the dried seed head clusters until spring, make this native another potential winter interest focal point in your landscape. Taste a green leaf in early summer. They have a wonderful sour tang to them, which I imagine is the source of their common name.

Sourwood
Oxydendron arboreum



Many thanks go to Catherine Bollinger, The Piedmont Gardener, for her gracious permission to use the text and photo from her wonderful blog. Check it out!
<http://piedmontgardener.com/?s=sourwood>

Notes from May's Meeting

Mike Ross and Corey Gillespie — with their usual good humor — led a lively and informative discussion on wrangling swarms.

Remarkably, when Mike asked, “Does anyone have overwintered bees that have not swarmed?” no one answered in the affirmative.

Lemongrass oil and Swarm Commander were recommended by group members to use in bait hives.

We also saw highlights from a fascinating video of Mike, Corey, and crew cutting out a bee colony from behind drywall in an unoccupied house.

Thanks, Mike and Corey!

WANTED

Your contribution to
the newsletter!

- Beekeeping news
- Upcoming events
- Presentations you've made
- Blossom sightings
- Photos from your bee yard
or pollinator garden or ...
- Any other items of interest to the
beekeeping community



Please send photos and notes
to ccaseypierce@gmail.com.
Thanks!

The Lake Isle of Innisfree William Butler Yeats

I WILL arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements gray,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

As published in *Modern British Poetry*, 1920
<http://www.bartleby.com/103/44.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