



# Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for March 2015

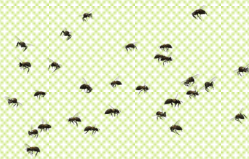
This Month's Program  
March 19th

## ***Swarm Prevention and Swarm Solutions***

Nancy Ruppert, NC Apiary Inspector for the South Central Region, will help us understand how to prevent swarms, and what to do if our prevention measures do not have the effects we hope for.

Nancy's programs are always enlightening, and the timing is right for thinking about swarms.

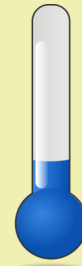
Potluck @ 6:00 pm  
Program @ 7:00 pm



See you there!

## **February's Meeting Weathered Out**

Many thanks to Nancy Ruppert for being willing to reschedule her presentation from February to March. The information on swarm prevention will serve us well this month, too!



## ***Blossoming in the Piedmont this month***

Red maple  
Sugar maple  
Winged elm  
Henbit  
Dead nettle  
Dandelions



## Map of Member Bee Hive Locations in Alamance County

Katie Harper, of the County GIS Department, has mapped the locations of ACBA member beehives and layered that over a County Voluntary Agriculture District map. The result is a great view of where our honeybees are doing their very useful work.

See the map @  
[www.alamancebeekeepers.org](http://www.alamancebeekeepers.org).

Thanks so much, Katie!

## WANTED

Your contribution to  
the newsletter!

- Beekeeping news
- Blossom sightings
- Photos from your bee yard or pollinator garden [with descriptive note] or ...
- Any other items of interest to fellow beeks

Send to [ccaseypierce@gmail.com](mailto:ccaseypierce@gmail.com) and  
every effort will be made to get it  
into the newsletter.  
Thanks!

## Bees in the News

**Flow frames put honey on tap directly from the beehive**, Colin Jeffrey, *Gizmag*, 2/17/2015, <http://bit.ly/1Fulque> A new invention by two Australian beekeepers is claimed to be able to siphon honey straight from a beehive without opening the lid or disturbing the bees inside."

**Safe urban beekeeping : Urban beekeeping doesn't have to be a scary experience for you and your neighbors. By taking precautions, your bees can thrive within city limits**, Deb Buehler, *Urban Farm Online*, retrieved 2/19/2015, <http://bit.ly/1zxa3iE> Keep your hives secret, or openly talk about them with your neighbors?

**The environment may change, but the microbiome of queen bees does not**, David Tarpy and Matt Shipman, 3/2/2015, <http://bit.ly/1xgjQFM> "Researchers from North Carolina State University, Indiana University, and Wellesley College have characterized the gut microbiome of honey bee queens. This is the first thorough census of the gut microbiome — which consists of all the microorganisms that live in the gut of the organism — in queen bees." One finding: When you buy a new queen, her microbiome does not change when she is introduced into her new hive.

**Bees drink with expandable mop tongues**, Elizabeth Preston, *Discover*, 1/13/2015, <http://bit.ly/1b4s6UK> The physics of the honeybee's tongue, shown by a mechanical engineer from Beijing. Includes photos and video.

Thanks, Geoff and Mike, for your contributions.



## Homegrown in the Park

April 11th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Burlington City Park



The North Carolina Farm Bureau will host **Homegrown in the Park** again this year. The event helps inform the public on the various aspects of agriculture in Alamance County and in the state.

Morning volunteers help set up the exhibit and answer questions until noon. Afternoon workers answer questions and help take down the displays.

Showing and telling folks about honeybees is always rewarding and lots of fun! And you know more than you think!

Contact Ira Poston @ [Ira.Poston@duke-energy.com](mailto:Ira.Poston@duke-energy.com) for more information. Thank you!

## Mentors Needed

**for more than 50 upcoming graduates of the ACBA beekeeping course !**



**Your experiences are invaluable to new beekeepers. Please don't underestimate how much you know!**

**If you are willing to be a go-to resource for a new beekeeper, please contact Ira at [ira.poston@duke-energy.com](mailto:ira.poston@duke-energy.com).**

***Thanks!***

## This Month in the Bee Yard—March

On a warm, sunny day with calm winds, thoroughly check each colony.

- Evaluate food stores — Feed bees if they don't have at least 15 pounds of honey.
- Check the amount of brood and the brood pattern — There should be several frames of brood.
- Write down your findings — Record anything that might be of interest at a later date.

From ACBA's Beginning Beekeeping Course

## Is your honey available for sale?

If you would like to be listed as a source of local honey on the NC Cooperative Extension Service web site, fill out the attached survey, sent by Laurie Newlin, 336-570-6740.

<http://goo.gl/forms/ADjE3i9vJD>

## Upcoming Programs

<b>APR 16</b>	Pollinator Protection
<b>MAY 21</b>	Capturing Swarms
<b>JUN 18</b>	Honey Removal and Extraction
<b>JUL 16</b>	Allergies & Reactions to Stings
<b>AUG 15</b>	Hive Inspection, Re- queening and Ice Cream
<b>SEP 17</b>	Honey Tasting & Cookout
<b>OCT 15</b>	Flavonoids in Honey and Why They are Important
<b>NOV 19</b>	Lessons learned
<b>DEC 1</b>	Planning meeting for 2016

See [alamancebeekeepers.org](http://alamancebeekeepers.org) for  
more details.



### 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

Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce  
Webmaster : Geoff Leister