



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for October 2017

Monthly Meeting

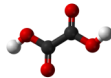
October 19

Dinner @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

Treatments for Varroa: Oxalic Acid

Presented by
Lewis Cauble, NC Bee Inspector,
Mountain Region

We welcome Lewis Cauble,
and look forward to hearing
from him about using oxalic
acid to treat for Varroa
mites.



We will get together at 6:00, be-
fore the program, to enjoy a pot-
luck and social time.



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Learn about $C_2H_2O_4$ treatments at the links
below.

[Oxalic Acid Vaporization -- Questions and
Answers](#)
[Keeping Honey Bee Colonies Safe from the
Varroa Mite](#)
[The Best Way to Kill Varroa with Oxalic Acid](#)
[Oxalic Acid Dribble and Sublimation Updates](#)
[What's the Deal with Oxalic Acid?](#)

North Carolina Beehive Grant Fund

If you are a certified beekeeper in NC, you may
be eligible to apply for funding to be used "for
new bee hives or the purchase of materials or
supplies to be used for the con-
struction new bee hives." Funding
was made possible by the North
Carolina State Legislature, a reflec-
tion of its belief in the importance
of beekeeping in our state.



Application period is October 16 to
December 15. For details, see

<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/north-carolina-beehive-grant-fund>.

When Hurricanes Threaten

From [article](#) by David Tarpy

- Secure your equipment with ratchet straps.
- Lower hive profile by removing unnecessary supers.
- Be sure the hives are on sturdy bases or level ground.
- If you use solid bottom boards, tilt hives so they won't fill with water.
- Watch out for falling trees and limbs.
- Don't leave hives in flood plains.
- Register your hives so you'll be warned if spraying for mosquitoes needs to happen after the storm.



Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[A-MAZE-ING: Take a walk with some bees](#), Cindy Snyder, Times-News (ID), 9/18/2017. A couple in Twin Falls, ID, have planted a late-season pollinator patch on their farm to help visitors learn more about bees. Try walking through a sunflower maze without being A-MAZED. They have been surprised by how much heavier their hives are as a result, too.

[Bee conservation initiative starts in downtown Winston-Salem](#), Fran Daniel, Winston-Salem Journal, 9/18/2017. The Bee Our Future program in W-S is a downtown bee conservation initiative that is spreading beyond downtown. For a fee -- average prices range from \$200 to \$500 per month -- they will maintain hives on your property and even provide you with the honey from your hives.



[‘Antisocial’ bees point to ancient roots for some autism genes](#), Hannah Furfaro and Jessica Wright, Spectrum News, 9/19/2017. “... Some bees don’t have ‘hive mind;’ they fail to respond to social cues, such as the arrival of new larvae or trespassing bees ... The genetic profiles of these bees are similar to those of people with autism, according to a provocative study published in July in [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA](#).”

[Burt's Bees beeswax lip balm: See how it's made from start to finish](#), Rheana Murray, Today, 9/26/2017. Take a minute and see how Burt’s Bees gets that lip balm into the tube!

[Not so sweet: 75 percent of honey samples had key pesticide](#), Seth Borenstein, ABC News, 10/5/2017. “When researchers collected honey samples from around the world, they found that three-quarters of them had a common type of pesticide suspected of playing a role in the decline of bees.”

[A worldwide survey of neonicotinoids in honey](#), Science, 10/6/2017. Read full text of the *Science* study referenced by Borenstein | ABC.

October in the Apiary

Thanks to Nancy Ruppert and
Seasonal Management Chapter | ACBA Course

- ◆ Our friends in the *Aster* genus continue to provide nectar and pollen for winter’s hives.
- ◆ Did your treatments for varroa mites work?
- ◆ Learn about using oxalic acid treatments in winter ... Attend this month’s meeting!
- ◆ Combine weak hives.
- ◆ Drones are being driven out.
- ◆ Limit visits inside the hive; bees are busy sealing cracks, and they can’t afford to waste time and energy re-doing work.
- ◆ By end of month, each hive should contain a shallow super of honey and three deep frames of honey. If a hive is lacking, feed sugar syrup at a 2:1 ratio.
- ◆ Near end of the month, start making preparations for cold weather. You’ll want to
 - remove the queen excluder if it is restricting access to winter food.
 - position entrance reducer to keep out mice.
 - raise hive cover 1/8” for ventilation.
- ◆ Plant something in your pollinator patch!



Notes from September Meeting

The downpour an hour before this month’s meeting did not deter AC beekeepers from enjoying a hotdog cookout and honey-tasting at Paul Jollay’s apiary in Glencoe. Good times!



Mike Ross’s bees won this year’s contest. Congratulations to Mike and his local honey!

Blooming in the Piedmont

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Welsh



Into the goldenrod!
Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Welsh.



Honey bee on Frost Aster (*Symphyotrichum pilosum*)
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Welsh.

Honey bee on Marigold (*Tagetes sp.*)
Photo courtesy of Jennifer Welsh.



Correction: September's photo of Clematis should have been labeled *Clematis terniflora*, or Sweet Autumn Virginibower instead of *Clematis Virginiana*.



Even as its blooms are on their way out for the year, *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *winkleri* 'Grape Sensation' is still a popular friend to a multitude of pollinators. Photo by C. Pierce.

Calendar

4-H Plant Sale

September 12 - October 23

North Carolina State Fair

October 12-24

Geoff Leister presenting on
Honey Bees and Pollination at:

Burlington Rotary Meeting
October 16, Occasions, Burlington

Alamance Burlington School System
Teacher Leadership Academy
October 17, The Addison Farm, Elon

Leadership Alamance by Alamance Chamber
(Agriculture), October 19, Concord United Methodist
Church, Graham

In 2018

Alamance County Beekeepers
Class of 2018 begins in January.

If you are out and about sharing your beekeeping
love and know-how with others, please tell, so we
can share the good news!

From Bees in America

By Tammy Horn

"When compared with Europe, American beekeeping was unsophisticated at the beginning of the nineteenth century. In fact, if the bees did survive foulbrood and wax moth, American beekeepers would kill the weakest colonies at the end of the season, knowing the bees couldn't survive the winters. The strong colonies were also destroyed because these would yield larger quantities of honey. Only the midweight colonies would be saved for the following year. This practice alone was enough to make American beekeepers seem cruel and primitive by European standards."



Election Season

Time to Vote for ACB Officers!

Make your nominations -- even nominate yourself! -- at the October meeting, and we'll vote in November. All offices -- President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as Three-Year Director -- are open for nominations. The President appoints the webmaster and the newsletter editor. Wouldn't *you* like to get more involved?



Officers for 2017

President : Ira Poston
Vice-President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson
One-year Director : Wayne Foulks
Two-year Director : Randy Stinson
Three-year Director : Paul Jollay

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce