



Alamance County Beekeepers

September 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday | September 19
Potluck @ 6:00, Meeting @ 7:00
at the Ag Building in Burlington

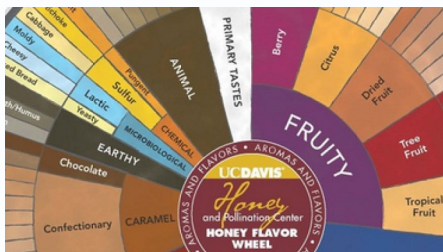
Nancy Ruppert
NC Apiary Inspector

Winterizing Hives and Honey Tasting

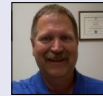
We'll have a joint meeting with the
Caswell County beekeepers this
month!

Nancy Ruppert will be our presenter,
and will talk about getting bees and
hives ready for the winter.

And we'll have our annual honey-
tasting contest! Bring your best and
enjoy the competition.



Message from Ira



Yes, everyone had a good time at the Ice Cream
Social. A little rain didn't change the flavor of
anything.

I know Nancy will be telling us to make sure our
bees are well fed and mite free...or at least a re-
duction in the mite load.

Bring your honey in an 8 oz bear so we can taste
and decide whose tastes the best.

Bring your "food dish" because we are having a
potluck dinner at 6:00 PM. Regular meeting be-
gins at 7:00 PM.

Thanks,
Ira

Volunteer Opportunity Smith Elementary School

Smith Elementary School's annual
Science, Technology, and Health Day
will be Wednesday, October 16, from
8:30-11:30 am. Volunteers from vari-
ous fields are asked to give several short (15-20
minutes) presentations on their topic to circu-
lating groups of students and teachers. Bee-
keepers have special knowledge that is always a
hit with this audience. If you're looking to do
some service hours, this is an especially great
opportunity. Contact yukiekajita@icloud.com
for more information.



August Meeting Notes

The August meeting at Breezy Acres (Don Moore family) was a chance to do hive exploration and to eat homemade ice cream with fellow beekeepers. It is always the best meeting of the season, according to Ira, and who could disagree?

Thank you, Don and Shirley for hosting, and thank you, Nancy Ruppert and Don Hopkins, for guiding us on seasonal work in the bee yard! With the work of all the ice cream makers and cake & cookie bakers and venue set-uppers and take-downers, it all worked great once again! Good time, all!

Blooming in the Piedmont

Plants in the Polygonaceae family such as knotweed and smartweed

Plants in the Asteraceae family, including yellow crownbeard, goldenrod, ironweed, asters



If you're looking to create more habitat for foraging insects, check out the plant sales coming up (see page 4) and follow Debbie Roos's posts about plants in the [Pollinator Paradise](#) in Chatham County.

Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Bees Swarm Berlin, Where Beekeeping Is Booming](#), Christopher F. Schuetze and Palko Karasz, New York Times, 8/11/2019. "Where the rest of Germany and much of the western world is worried about bees dying off, Berlin and other big German cities have the opposite problem — too many hives."

[New Mural has Downtown Graham A-Buzz](#), Times-News, 8/14/2019. Check out the side of 102 W. Elm Street in Graham, and see what mural artist, Davis, has been up to!

[Bee-hold! Test your honeybee knowledge with this quiz](#). Washington Post, 8/15/2019.

[Episode 665: How Bees Made What We Eat](#), The Splendid Table podcast, re-broadcast 8/16/2019. Meet the head of the NYC Beekeepers Association as he tends one of his 102 hives; hear from the author of *Buzz: The Nature and Necessity of Bees* and learn that that some scientists think honey may be related to human evolution; and hear an interview about honey for cooking.

[Innocent man spent months in jail for bringing honey back to United States](#), Lynh Bui, Washington Post, 8/23/2019. U. S. Customs officials believed that the three jars of honey Leon Houghton brought back from Jamaica was liquid meth.

["Honeyland" won three awards on the Sundance festival](#), Aleksandar Uzunov, COLOSS.org, 2/20/2019. "The documentary movie "Honeyland" tells the story of a woman, named Atidze, who keeps honey bees in tune with nature. "One half for me, half for you" perfectly illustrates Atidze's beekeeping philosophy which is based on a balance between the mankind and the natural resources. The movie also shows her daily struggles with the challenges originating from the "outer" world."





ACB members Barry Tomlinson, Jane Ulicny, Chip Allen, Sheyenne Michelizzi, and Zivon Price attended the [BEES Academy](#) in Pittsboro on September 5th and 6th with Dr. David Tarpy and Debbie Roos.

We're Going to the State Fair & We're in it to Win it! What Can *You* Do?

Cut Comb Honey (in containers without liquid honey)

<u>Factors</u>	<u>Points</u>
Uniformity of appearance (between and within sections)	25
Neatness of comb cut: ragged edges, parallel cuts, uniformity & size of cuts	30
Uniformity of color	15
Absence of watery cappings	10
Appearance of cappings and freedom from impurities	10
Cleanliness and general appearance of containers	10
TOTAL	100

If you would like to drop off your State Fair entries at the Ag Building for pickup and delivery to Raleigh, you are welcome to bring them to Cynthia's office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 11. Be sure to bring the tags that you'll receive in the mail.

If you're worried about a food item going bad, you are welcome to take it to the fairgrounds yourself, or contact Sheyenne at sheyennem@gmail.com or 919-601-4271.

Deadline for entering the Fair is this Sunday, 9/15. And, here is the link to sign up for volunteering at the info booth: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4baeaf2da3f85-state3>



Calendar

Pollinator Garden Tours

Tours continue through October 16,
including September 23 @ 10:00 a.m. and
October 5 @ 2:00 p.m.
Chatham Mills, Pittsboro

Birds * Bees * Butterflies and Growing Pollinator Gardens

Johnston County Center
September 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fall Plant Sales

Master Gardener Volunteers, September 18
NC Botanical Garden, September 27-28
Duke Gardens, September 28

Beekeeping Workshops @ Bugfest
NC Museum of Natural Sciences, September 21

Farm to Table *

Cedarock Park
September 24-25

Fall Festival *

Cedarock Park
October 5, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Science, Technology & Health Day *
Smith Elementary
October 16, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

North Carolina State Fair

October 17-27

* Volunteer opportunity



This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Beehive population drops; drones begin their seasonal die-off.
- Leave your hive with at least 60 pounds of nectar for winter use.
- May feed thin (1:1) syrup to stimulate laying. By end of month, thicken syrup to 2:1 to be used for winter stores if you haven't left enough honey.
- Combine colonies at end of month if you have weak or failing queens.
- Continue pest control activities. Varroa treatments should be finished by end of month.
- Give thanks for fall nectar and pollen!

<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA.pdf?fwd=no>



Officers for 2019

President : Ira Poston
Vice-President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson
One-year Director : Paul Jollay
Two-year Director : Chuck Couch
Three-year Director : Johnny Mills
Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce