



G O T T A B E E

Mecklenburg Beekeepers Association
Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm
2219 Tyvola Road
Marion Diehl Park and Rec Building
Mailing address: 121 Hermitage Rd Charlotte NC 28207
704-358-8075
Visit our website at

www.meckbees.org



*President -
Wayne Hansen*

*Vice President -
Richard Flanagan*

*Treasurer -
Libby Mack*

*Chaplain -
Gene Shannon*



This Month's Meeting/Program April 17



Dr. Art Duckworth from Gaston County Beekeepers Club will be our guest speaker this month.

**This months refreshments are provided by
Randall York**

The Community Garden at Reedy Creek Park on Rocky River Road would be interested in having a beehive located near the community garden. The hive could be permanent or seasonal. Please contact Wayne Hansen for more details.



Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for

April

Install supers on all the hives. Periodic checks should be made during the honey flow to see if additional supers are needed.

Speakers for 2008

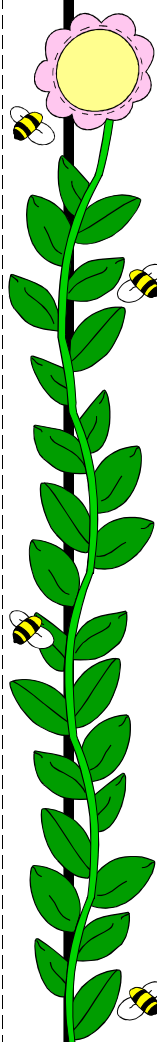
**April—Art Duckworth
Gaston County
Beekeeper**

**May—Scott Ewers
Coop Ext Rep
Mecklenburg County**

June—Summer Potluck

**July— David Crowe
Critter Control**

**August— Joe Flowers NC
State University Apiary
Division**



New Honeybees Discovered *Dateline 04/01/08*
International Hive News Agency

Beekeepers around the world are celebrating the discovery of a new race of honeybees which will make life easier for the beekeeper. The new bees have been named "Apis April Fuulz" in honor of their discoverer, Dr. April Fuulz.

Dr. Fuulz discovered the new bees after a research assistant left a case of empty quart mason jars in her truck. "The next morning the jars were full of honey and the lids were screwed down tight", she said, "I put ten empty cases out every night for the next three months and every morning they were full". Infrared surveillance photography confirmed what Dr. Fuulz suspected: a newly captured swarm of bees were collecting honey all day and transferring the ripened honey into jars at night. Dr. Fuulz first noticed something different about the bees during her study of Integrated Pest Management techniques. "I was evaluating screened hive bodies with screened bottom boards and screened inner covers when I observed that the bees had knitted poly-propolis sweaters for their brood". Dr. Fuulz also mentioned that "a side benefit of the little hooded sweaters is that they are completely impervious to the varroa mite". Dr. Fuulz plans to market the Apis April Fuulz queens after she figures out how they screw down the jar lids. (April Fools!)

Spring Meeting of the NC Beekeepers

The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association held their annual Spring Meeting on March 7th and 8th in Burlington, NC. 400 NC beekeepers attended from across the state including more than a dozen representing our Mecklenburg County association.

NCSBA's program covered a wide range of beekeeping topics from modern and historical perspectives. Kim Flottum, editor of *Bee Culture* magazine and author of *The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture*, presented his views of the challenges and best practices of modern beekeeping. Reverend L. L. Langstroth made a guest appearance to contrast historical advances in beekeeping to the problems we face today. Dr. David Tarpy summarized the many research programs which will continue to benefit NC beekeepers. Other program speakers and workshop leaders generated spirited discussions of current beekeeping topics.

A record \$1,750 was raised for NC beekeeping research programs through a silent auction of bee-related equipment and accessories. Mecklenburg County did their part: Wayne Hanson outbid the room for an extravagantly decorated hive which will be the envy of his plainly-boxed bees and Libby Mack spent a few quarts of honey profits for a reprint of the popular 1623 edition of "*The Feminine Monarchie: or The Historie of Bees*".

The NCSBA Summer Meeting (www.ncbeekeepers.org/meetings.htm) will be held July 10-12 in Southern Pines, NC. All MeckBees members are encouraged to attend to share beekeeping experiences, learn about the latest advances and meet other beekeepers. Anybody interested in some golf?



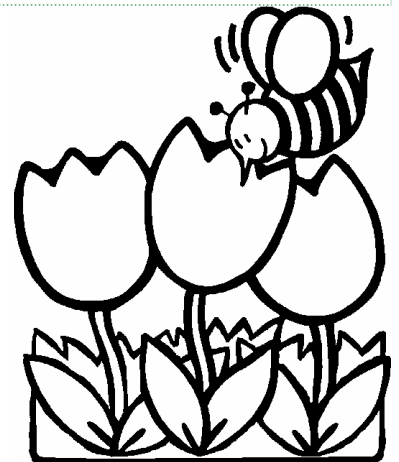
Interesting and colorful descriptions of various insect stings by entomologist Justin O. Schmidt. From [Wikipedia](#) and with thanks to [boingboing](#).

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- 1.0 [Sweat bee](#): Light, ephemeral, almost fruity. A tiny spark has singed a single hair on your arm.
- 1.2 [Fire ant](#): Sharp, sudden, mildly alarming. Like walking across a shag carpet & reaching for the light switch.
- 1.8 [Bullhorn acacia ant](#): A rare, piercing, elevated sort of pain. Someone has fired a staple into your cheek.
- 2.0 [Bald-faced hornet](#): Rich, hearty, slightly crunchy. Similar to getting your hand mashed in a revolving door.
- 2.0 [Yellowjacket](#): Hot and smoky, almost irreverent. Imagine WC Fields extinguishing a cigar on your tongue.
- 2.x [Honey bee](#) and [European hornet](#).
- 3.0 [Red harvester ant](#): Bold and unrelenting. Somebody is using a drill to excavate your ingrown toenail.
- 3.0 [Paper wasp](#): Caustic & burning. Distinctly bitter aftertaste. Like spilling a beaker of Hydrochloric acid on a paper cut.
- 4.0 [Pepsis wasp](#): Blinding, fierce, shockingly electric. A running hair drier has been dropped into your bubble bath (if you get stung by one you might as well lie down and scream).
- 4.0+ [Bullet ant](#): Pure, intense, brilliant pain. Like walking over flaming charcoal with a 3-inch nail in your heel.

(NaturalNews)

Bee pollen is often referred to as nature's most complete food. Pollen harvested from a diverse selection of geographic areas contains all the essential components of life in a good tasting, chewable, easily digested, and highly bio-available form that can be consumed by anyone from young children to the very old. All the nutritive and rejuvenating elements contained in expensive, whole food vitamin pills can be found in bee pollen. But since these elements are crafted into the most super of superfoods by nature, they have the added benefits of perfect synergy. Pollen also offers healing, with interesting research studies documenting its medicinal effect.



Wow! It's a good time to be a beekeeper. Bees are getting more publicity, people who don't care much about nature are for some reason interested in the little creature. But I guess I'd care too if a lack of bees could put ice cream at risk.

Thanks to everyone who voted for me in the impromptu election in February. Hopefully, I'll do a good job. I think the efforts of those who are already doing a good job will make it a little easier, and I'll have to remember to thank them as often as I can. Libby, Richard, Gary, Gerry...and those are just the easy ones to name. Some people are working at getting the new club logo ready for prime time and maybe a hat or two, others are mentors for the students in bee school. Thank you.

Also, I think I can report that Mecklenburg County reached the \$5,000 mark in donations to the NC Zoo Honey Bee Exhibit fund. This means that when you visit the finished exhibit, somewhere near there will be a pylon with ours and other similar donors names on it. The zoo has a space for anyone who would like to come and set up an observation hive or a real hive on weekends this year beginning in mid-April. If you need the name of the lady coordinating that, contact me. You may also bring honey or hive products to sell, and there is a parking area near the honey bee exhibit location

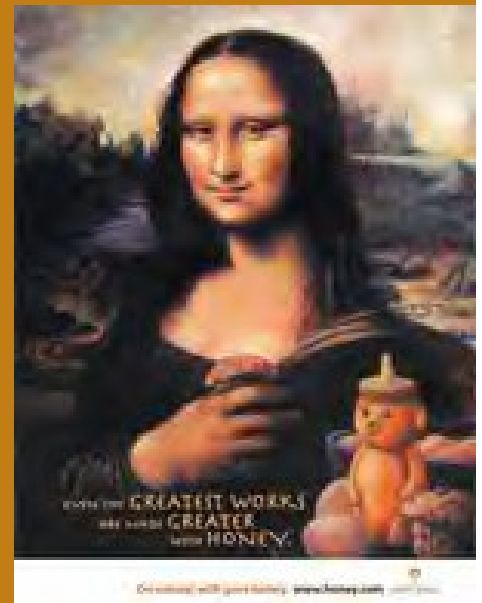
Most president's seem to have a platform, and several people have some very good ideas. We'll be discussing some of them in the next few months. Maybe one or more of them will interest you, so feel free to volunteer.

Bee-spectfully,

Wayne

Honey Bear Meets Great Art: NHB Produces New T-Shirts, Posters and More for Purchase by Consumers

NHB recently produced a series of unique t-shirts and posters featuring the traditional honey bear incorporated into several great works of art. The items feature original works of art commissioned by NHB for an advertising campaign directed toward retail and industrial bakeries. To promote baking with honey, the ads featured the honey bear in unique versions of Michelangelo's *Creation*, Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. The t-shirts, posters and other items are available for purchase at cost on CafePress.com at www.cafepress.com/honeyboard. Although the items cannot be ordered directly from NHB, there is also a link to the CafePress page on the home page of honey.com.



Pesticide Continuing Education

If you have a private pesticide applicator's license you must take 4 hours of continuing education during each 3-year period. It must be two hours of category 'V' and two hours of category 'X'.

Jim Monroe, our county extension agent, is offering two classes on April 16 which satisfy this requirement: 2 hours 'V' from 4-6 pm and 2 hours 'X' from 7-9 pm.

The Ag Extension Office is at 1418 Armory Drive, Charlotte, NC 28204

Contact Jim Monroe to register Jim.Monroe@mecklenburgcountync.gov
(704)336-4006

