



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

Feb

President -
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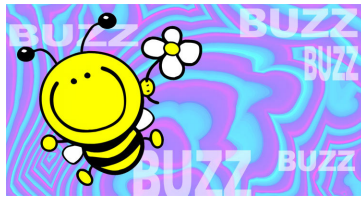
Vice President -
Richard Flanagan

Treasurer -
Libby Mack



Chaplain -
Gene Shannon

This Month's Meeting/Program Feb 21



This month we are having Bob Blackwelder come and speak on artificial inseminations.

This is an aspect of queen rearing that is seldom taught or performed by the average beekeeper. Come and learn how and why this is becoming more important as we look for better healthier queens in the future.

This months refreshments are provided by

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UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Publishes Significant Finding on Honeybee Societies

Older worker bees– not queen – initiate action, make decisions

CHARLOTTE – June 11, 2007 – Undergraduate education generally involves acquiring "received knowledge" – in other words, absorbing the past discoveries of scholars and scientists. But University of North Carolina at Charlotte senior biology major Andrew Pierce went beyond the textbooks and uncovered something previously unknown. Pierce's discovery has to do with detecting a significant new detail concerning the behavior of the European honeybee – perhaps the most studied and economically important insect on Earth. Beyond agriculture, the finding may also have key implications for understanding the dynamics of all social animals, including man.

Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for February

Don't forget to feed the bees sugar syrup for the days
before sufficient nectar is available

Treat for foulbrood in February.

Speakers for 2008

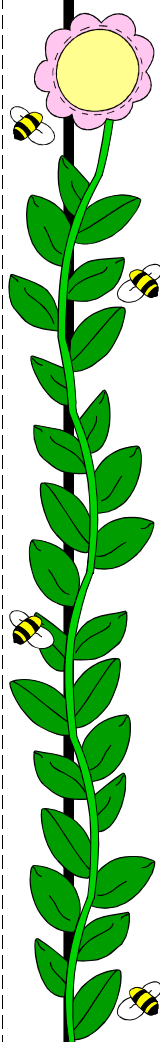
Feb Bob Blackwelder
Artificial Insemination

March - Chip Stowe
Gaston County
Beekeeper

April—Art Duckworth
Gaston County
Beekeeper

May—Scott Ewers
Coop Ext Rep
Mecklenburg County

June—Summer Potluck



I have long wondered if rapid collapse of honey bee colonies infested by varroa, and the so-called "colony collapse disorder" might not be caused by a mass exodus of bees in an attempt to rid the colony of parasites. This could in fact be a last ditch effort to save the queen and enough bees to carry on. Obviously, it fails when carried out in the fall, in northern climates but could have evolved in tropical bees where a small nucleus could in fact regenerate the colony.

This idea was put into print in the latest American Bee Journal on page 104. See "Dying outside for the good of the colony" by Jasna Kralj of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She and Stefan Fuchs wrote about this last year in Apidologie (how did I miss that article?)

CATCH THE BUZZ

Some of the first research results from USDA on CCD presented at the Entomology meeting in San Diego.

The latest report on research results from USDA trials came to light at both the San Diego meeting and the Sacramento meetings. There were some at both and together they make a good story.

Last fall researchers gathered 160 colonies that showed symptoms of having Colony Collapse Disorder. They wanted to study the phenomenon that colonies that die of suspect CCD aren't invaded by those opportunist pests beekeepers routinely see when a colony dies...bees from other colonies robbing out the honey and other scavengers like wax moths and small hive beetles. Also, when bees were put back in hives that had died from CCD, the new bees came down with the symptoms and the colonies again perished. This was completely alien to the beekeepers who experienced this...it just wasn't in the rules.

So researchers took 40 colonies of the 160 colonies and had them irradiated - just like medical instruments - to sterilize them; 40 colonies were not treated at all, these then being the control colonies; 40 colonies were treated with acetic acid, known to control other honey bees pests on beeswax comb; and 40 of the colonies had the brood comb removed and the new bees were put on the comb found in honey supers, thinking no brood had been there previous to the addition of new bees.

All 160 colonies then had packages of honey bees put back on them, the bees coming from shipments from Australia. The colonies were fed the standard treatment for the antibiotic common for treating Nosema at the rate of one gallon, two times. They were also fed supplemental pollen substitute to help acclimatize and get ready for the honey flows to follow. The colonies were tested for varroa mites and were tested for Nosema infection. Varroa tests showed very, very low infestations, and colonies treated for Nosema showed low levels, or no levels of infection after treatment. This is a key measure since both of these maladies have been implicated in causing or contributing CCD in colonies.

Already in December almost all the beekeepers with the colonies were reporting high losses. Almost all of them.

Those colonies treated with acetic acid, the control colonies and those put on just honey comb were all reporting about a 50% loss late in November. The colonies that had been irradiated showed a 70% survival rate, which, in the world of commercial beekeeping isn't too bad, unfortunately. And, though not perfect, it seems that the irradiated colonies, by faring better, point to some relationship between a living organism and CCD, though there is some speculation that irradiation will cause some pesticides to break down too, so that hasn't been ruled out.

The conclusion by the investigators was, at least so far, CCD is "likely an interaction of pesticides, Nosema, virus, nutrition and mites". But what role each of these plays is still undecided, or unfound. No single factor stands out yet.

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[US Teen Entrepreneurs Promote Organic Honey From Ghana](#)



The Honey Project Empowers Teen Entrepreneurs

By Bridget Carey, [The Miami Herald](#) (USA), 12/31/2007

When high school students want to get experience in running a business, they usually take up summer internships or shadow corporate executives.

But several Broward County students have taken it a big step further -- they are running their own honey business and with a global twist.

The Honey Project is a program tied to the Junior Achievement Youth Entrepreneurship Program and the Minority E-Commerce Association -- also known as MECA. It selects 15 Broward high school students to run the business, which sells organic African honey.

Nathan Burrell, founder of MECA, conceptualized [The Honey Project](#) and along with being a partner in the business, he serves as an advisor for the students.

"There are many after-school programs that focus on career training or reading or certain things from that standpoint, but we're one of the few unique projects that talk about youth entrepreneurship, in a sense that really gives the students an opportunity to own and manage their own business," Burrell said. "It's literally the students who are in control, who make the decisions on the day-to-day operations for the company."

The Honey Project is a nonprofit entity that sells organic honey from Africa to people in the United States. The students charge about \$20 for a 12-ounce jar to help raise money for the village in Agogo, Ghana, where the honey is produced...



Bee School Is Coming!
Bee School 2008 starts January 29.

**Tell all your friends and neighbors to
join us for this year's class.**

**Do you have new or gently used equipment or
books to donate?**

**Door prizes are greatly appreciated by the class
and make
for lively discussions.**

**Please bring donated items to the
February or March meeting.**



DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

Yes, it's that time of year, time to renew your membership in our county association, and if you're not yet a member of the North Carolina State Association, consider joining up there, too. Both organizations deliver great value for your membership dollars, so support your beekeeping associations.

Mail this form and your check made out to:

Mecklenburg County Beekeepers to

Mecklenburg County Beekeepers 121 Hermitage Rd Charlotte NC 28207

You can also get discounts of 20-25% on Bee Culture and American Bee Journal.

See Libby for a coupon or to pay directly for the subscription.

Mecklenburg County Beekeepers Association

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send newsletter via ____ **email (thanks!)** ____ **paper**

Number of hives: _____

Today's Date _____ **Membership Year 2008**

Bee School \$25 _____ **I am registering for Bee School**

Includes 1 year membership in County Association

I heard about the bee school from _____

County Association \$5 I am a _____ **New Member** _____ **Renewing Member**

State Association \$15 I am a _____ **New Member** _____ **Renewing Member**

_____ **Total Payment**

WANTED: NewBee Mentors

We have another big swarm of new beekeepers starting class in January and are looking for a dozen mentors to help the new beekeepers start successfully. Mentoring involves:

- Answering practical questions about getting started with bees and equipment;
- Inspiring new beekeeper confidence by visiting the new bee-yard;
- Encouraging new beekeepers to follow the best beekeeping practices;
- Involving the new beekeeper in a visit to an established bee-yard; and most importantly
- Sharing your bee-keeping experiences.

Mentors do not need to attend bee school. The mentoring program (very successful last year) is designed to give the new beekeepers a friend to answer questions or concerns that can't wait for the next monthly Bee-Keepers meeting. An interesting side benefit to the mentors is that NewBees actively seek experience carrying supers, uncapping frames and cranking extractors!

Please contact Gerry Mack at 704.358.8075 to help out a few new beekeepers.

