



M E C K B E E S

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 -



This Month's Meeting/Program

April 16th



Don Hopkins, one of our state's top bee inspectors, will come and speak on the latest info from the state in regards to our bees and how we will deal with upcoming problems like African Honey bees.

This months refreshments are provided by Kevin and Kristy Freeman



I'm looking for a beekeeper to participate in Earth Day in Matthews, scheduled for Saturday, April 25th from 10-1 in Stumptown Park. If any of your members might want to man a table and talk to people about beekeeping, they may contact me at this e-mail or 704-841-1372.

Thanks.

Debbie Foster

Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for April

Install supers on the hives. Check during honey flow to see if additional supers are needed.

Speakers for 2009

April 2009 Don Hopkins
Bee disease updates

May 2009 Gary Cathey
Mead Making

June Summer Cookout

July Greg Clements
Bee Vision

Aug Jimmy Odom
Bee Venom treatment
Demo

Sept– Richard Flanagan
Bumblebees



<http://www.greatsunflower.org/en/Bee-guides> is a great website to see pictures to help identify all types of bees. This website has lots of information on identifying bees and describing their characteristics.

How do I know it is a bee and not a wasp or fly?

Flies are easy. Flies have one wing on each side. Bees have two. Flies also tend to perch with their wings pointing out an angle. Bees tuck them away.

Telling wasps and bees apart is much harder. Bees tend to have wider bodies and appear more robust. Bees are usually hairier and you can often see where they are carrying pollen. However, it turns out that bees closest relatives are a group of wasps and these wasps are very difficult to differentiate from bees. The easy way to tell bees and wasps apart is to use a microscope and look for a branched hair. Bees have branched hairs, wasps have simple hairs. Alternatively, watch what they eat. Bees are vegetarian, wasps are carnivores.



<http://www.earthsky.org/radioshows/52933/what-does-it-mean-to-build-a-better-bee>

Building a better bee???

Program #5666 of the Earth & Sky Radio Series
with hosts [Deborah Byrd](#), [Joel Block](#),
[Lindsay Patterson](#) and [Jorge Salazar](#)

Honey bees in the United States are in decline. What scientists call Colony Collapse Disorder has wiped out about a third of U.S. beehives. EarthSky spoke to bee breeder Susan Cobey of the University of California Davis about building a better bee.

Susan Cobey focuses on breeding bees that can recognize pests and disease and remove them from the hive. Cobey said her long term plan is to enhance the honey bee gene pool.

That's important because we're dependent on bees for our food supply. They pollinate most of our crops – their work is worth fourteen billion dollars a year. A wider gene pool provides tools to maintain the health of the entire US population of honey bees.

Dr. Cobey does that by crossing domestic bees with European bees. Bees in Europe have always been selected for pest and disease resistance. She's confident the bee population will eventually recover. So Cobey believes a hybrid will make a stronger bee.

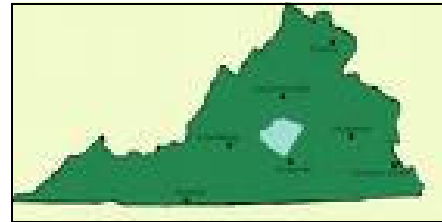


The Virginia State Beekeepers Association will hold their next meeting on April 17 & 18, 2009, at the Northampton Community Center in Hampton, VA, 23666 Speakers include:

- **Ross Conrad (Vermont beekeeper),**
- **Nancy Ostiguy (Penn State Univ.),**
- **Nancy Adamson (Virginia Tech),**
- **Juliana Rangel (Cornell Univ.),**
- **Wyatt Mangum (Univ. of Mary Washington),**
- **Rick Fell (Virginia Tech),**
- **Keith Tignor (Virginia State Apiarist).**

<http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/meetings/RegistrationSpring09.pdf>

Click on the link to see about registration



California takes third in Honey production



The Associated Press Posted: 03/13/2009 02:35:52 PM PDT
FRESNO, Calif.—Honey production rose by more than one-third in California last year, even as beekeepers continue battling a mysterious ailment that is causing millions of honeybees to disappear.

A new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows the 360,000 hives based in California in 2008 produced 18.3 million pounds of honey, as compared to the 13.6 produced the year before.

California beekeepers earned nearly \$26 million last year for their honey.

Each year, thousands of keepers haul their bees to California during bloom season to pollinate blossoming nut and fruit trees.

North Dakota kept its top spot in the nation for production last year, followed by South Dakota and by California.



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 2009

Bee School \$30 _____ 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

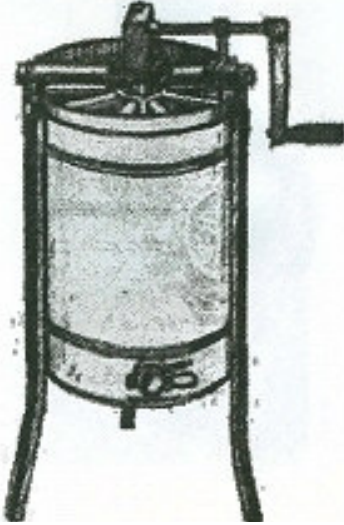
_____ Renewing Member

State Association \$15 I am a _____ New Member

_____ Renewing Member

Total Payment





It's Harvest Time!

We have the following equipment available for extracting honey:

- Extractor (manual)
- Uncapping tank (use your own excluder)
- Bucket with valve
- Electric uncapping knife

The charge is \$2 per day to borrow the extractor.

You will want to use your own filters and food-grade plastic buckets.

To obtain the equipment:

- Call Jimmy Odom to arrange a time to pick it up.
Phone: (704) 408-2726
Address: 17026 McKee Rd Charlotte NC 28278
- When you pick up the equipment, take an envelope and card to mail in your payment
- Return the equipment **promptly, clean and dry**
- Mail your payment in the envelope provided

With the growth of the club, there is heavy demand for the extractor in the summer months. There will be a waiting list, so be prepared for a short wait, and when you get the equipment, please return it promptly so the next person on the list can get it. Please don't pass it on to someone else who isn't on the list. Thanks!
