



**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](http://www.meckbees.org)

*President -  
Greg Clements*

*Vice President -  
Richard  
Flanagan*

*Treasurer -  
Libby Mack*

*Chaplain -  
Stan Watkins*



**This Month's Meeting/Program Jan 18th**

David Crowe, owner of Critter Control, will come and discuss various stinging insects and help new beekeepers identify wasps, hornets, bees, etc. Come and learn about the other insects that we encounter in Mecklenburg County.

**This months refreshments are provided by:**

**Jon Fabian**

Tom Frisch, one of our club members, found a great site for info on beekeeping...

Here is a link to George Imirie's Pink Pages. They have been indexed by table of contents & by alphabetical index and provide some good reading.

[http://pxbacher.home.comcast.net/PinkPages/Alphabetical\\_Index.html](http://pxbacher.home.comcast.net/PinkPages/Alphabetical_Index.html)

**Bee School**

Bee School starts February 6. Do you have friends and neighbors who love your honey and enjoy visiting your bees? Tell them about the school. Post it in your church bulletin. See the web site for details, and contact Richard for flyers you can hand out in your neighborhood.

## Updates and Information

### *Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for January*

Population starts increasing as you feed artificial pollen.

Treat for Varroa mites 2 Apitan strips per hive, record date, leave strips in for 45-56 days - but no more!

#### *Speakers for 2007*

**Jan– David Crowe  
Critter Control**

**Feb– Dick Lippard  
Small Hive Beetle  
and other pests**

**March–Jimmy Odom  
Our regional rep**

**April—Jeff Knight  
Swarm Control**

**May– Bonnie Faulkner  
CPCC plant  
expert**

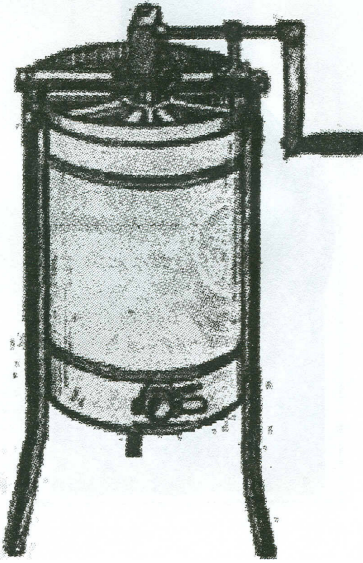
#### Did you know?

**Visit Our Brand New Web Site**

**A big thank you to Steve Montgomery for donating the web hosting service, and to Gary Cathey for putting up our new site. Although it is still under construction, you can check it out at <http://www.meckbees.org/>**

**Please send your kudos and suggestions to Gary at [garyc3@aol.com](mailto:garyc3@aol.com)**

**It would be especially great to hear some ideas for pages on honey plants and honey recipes.**



## **EXTRACTOR USE INFORMATION**

### TO USE THE EXTRACTOR & EQUIPMENT

Call Sam Ritter 704-364-3052

219 N. Sharon Amity

Charlotte

(Before 9:00 am)

We have four pieces of equipment that make up the extractor of honey.

- 1) Extractor
- 2) Uncapping Tank ( Use your own Excluder)
- 3) Bucket with valve
- 4) Electric Knife

*The club charges \$2.00 a day for using the extractor;*

*Mr. Ritter logs everyone that uses the equipment.*

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## **Insect With A Nose For Explosives Is the Bees Knees**

November 29, 2006

**PHOENIX, Arizona:** Scientists at a US weapons laboratory say they have trained bees to sniff out explosives in a project they say could have far-reaching applications for US security and the Iraq war.

Researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico said they trained honey bees to stick out their proboscis, the tube they use to feed on nectar, when they smell explosives in anything from cars and roadside bombs to belts similar to those used by suicide bombers.

Researchers in the Stealthy Insect Sensor Project published their findings yesterday.

By exposing the insects to the odor of explosives and offering a sugar water reward, researchers said they trained bees to recognize substances ranging from dynamite and C-4 plastic explosives to the howitzer propellant grains used in improvised explosives in Iraq.

"When bees detect ... explosives, they simply stick their proboscis out," Tim Haarmann, the lead scientist, said. "You don't have to be an expert in animal behavior to understand it as there is no ambiguity."

The findings followed 18 months of research at the Energy Department's Los Alamos site, the nation's leading nuclear weapons laboratory.

"We are very excited at the success of our research as it could have far-reaching implications for both defense and homeland security," Dr. Haarmann said.

While scientists have trained wasps to respond to the trace of explosives, Dr. Haarmann said research with bees appeared to show more promise. He said the bees could be carried in handheld detectors the size of shoe boxes, and could be used to sniff out explosives in airports, roadside areas, or even placed in robot bomb disposal equipment.

He said the next step would be to manufacture the bee boxes and train security guards in their use.

"It would be great to start saving some lives with this," he said.

Reuters

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## **Give the Gift of Bees for the Holidays!**

Still working on some last minute holiday shopping for family or friends? Be the first to give them bees! Through a donation to Heifer International, you can provide a needy family in a developing country with a package of bees, the box and hive, and training in beekeeping. A gift card is available to let the recipient know this donation has been made in their name. From India to the Dominican Republic, bees from Heifer International help struggling families earn income through the sale of honey, beeswax and pollen. Although most Heifer partners keep bees as a supplement to family income, beekeeping can be a family's livelihood.

Information on donating to purchase bees or other animals is available at

<http://www.heifer.org/>

## **Beekeeper for a Day – Pure Honey Label Design Contest for Kids**

Earlier this year, NHB launched a contest for kids called “Beekeeper for a Day,” as part of its Hispanic marketing program. The contest asked elementary school children to design and submit a honey label. The top prize is a day with a beekeeper for the child and his or her family. The finalists and winner will be announced soon. In the meantime, check out some of the hundreds of entries NHB received!

<http://www.honey.com/consumers/kids/beekeeperday>



**“Bee Movie” is the comedic tale of Barry B. Benson, a graduate bee fresh out of college, who is disillusioned with the prospect of having only one career choice -- honey. On a chance opportunity to go outside the hive, Barry's life is saved by a woman, Vanessa, a florist in New York City. As their relationship blossoms, Barry's eyes are opened to the world of humans and he soon discovers that people partake in the mass consumption of honey. Armed with this information, Barry realizes his true calling in life and decides to sue the human race for stealing the bees' honey. As a result, the bee and human communities get involved in ways they never had before, each one of them pointing a finger at the other. Barry gets caught up in the middle and finds himself with some very unusual problems to solve.**

**Source:**

**<http://movies.about.com/od/moviesinproduction/a/beemovie042905.htm>**

**Interesting news from today's release - a major motion picture, wonder what kind of spin it will put on the reality of honeybees and beekeeping?**

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## Membership

It's that time of year -- time to renew your membership in Meck County and in NC Beekeepers.

Dues remain \$5 for the county plus \$15 (optional) for the state. Please support your beekeeping associations

Send your dues to

Mecklenburg County Beekeepers

121 Hermitage Rd

Charlotte NC 28207

Did you know?

-- At age 55 you can become a permanent member of the NC State Beekeepers for only \$150  
-- no more annual dues to the state, and no dues increases to worry about. Yes, you have to show ID to claim this benefit. Younger than 55? Permanent membership is \$300.

-- Membership entitles you to 15-20% discount on both Bee Culture and American Bee Journal. See Libby for your coupon.

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## **Calling All Volunteers**

**Help make your beekeeping association a better resource.**

**Volunteers are needed for the following:**

- web site content (see article elsewhere in the newsletter)**
- mentoring new beekeepers**
- help out with bee school:
  - contact newspapers, radio stations etc. for publicity**
  - registration and book sales Feb 6 and 13th 6pm - 9:30pm**
  - assemble hives and frames Mar 18 1pm - 5 pm**
  - other activities including field day****
- help Union County put on the State Spring Meeting March 2-3**

Please contact Greg, Richard, or Libby if you can help.

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