

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 months
refreshments are
provided by
Randall York**

This Month's Meeting/Program

May 21



**Gary Cathey from our local
bee club will be our guest
speaker. Gary is not only a
beekeeper, but a great brew
master when it comes to mead and will
share his techniques for making this honey
wine.**



Here is a great web site article about bees from the New York Times
<http://judson.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/28/guest-column-lets-hear-it-for-the-bees/>

Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for May

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

Speakers for 2009

May 21, 2009 Gary Cathey
Mead Making

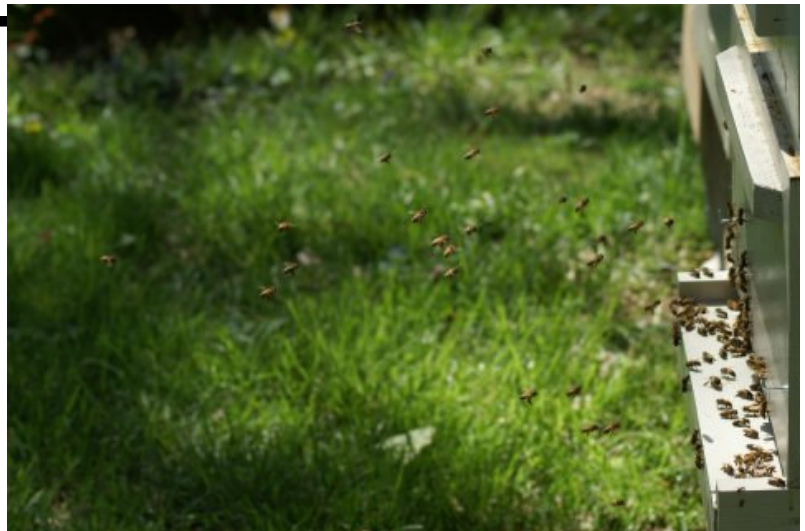
June 18 Todd Sulphin
3rd generation beekeeper

July Greg Clements
Bee Vision

Aug Jimmy Odom
Bee Venom treatment
Demo

Sept- Richard Flanagan
Bumblebees

Oct- Don Rosenberg
Organic Gardening



Picture provided by Carl Albrecht

Honey Hair Shine Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp honey
- 4 cups warm water

Directions:

- Mix together well the honey and water.

Use:

- After shampooing your hair, douse hair thoroughly with the honey mixture. Dry hair as you normally would, do not rinse the honey mixture out of your hair





**Mecklenburg County
Beekeepers Association**



**Invites you to a Bee Barbeque Celebration
at Greg Clements' house on
June 20, 2009 starting at 2pm**

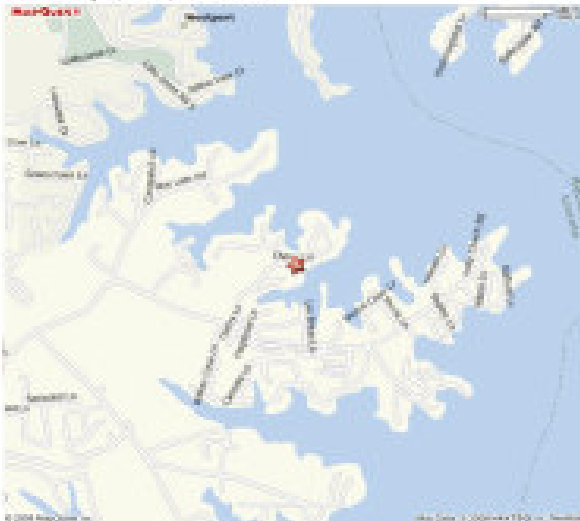
**Come ready to swim, play games, and
eat lots of good food!!!**

**Please, bring your own beverage, lawn
chairs and swimming and boating attire.**

**Help us plan this event by RSVP before
June 6th with your name, phone and number
of people to**

**Email: meckbeekeepers@yahoo.com or
Phone: 704-536-4805 - Wayne Hansen**

A 2646 Cherry Ln, Denver, NC 28037-9348



Directions from Charlotte

- Start out going I-77 N/US-21 N via EXIT 10 toward STATESVILLE. 1.6 Miles
- Merge onto NC-16 N via EXIT 11B on the LEFT. 17.9 Miles
- Take the NC-73 exit toward LINDOLTON/HUNTERSVILLE. 0.4 Miles
- Turn RIGHT onto NC-73/NC-16. 0.6 Miles
- Turn LEFT onto NC-16. 2.3 Miles
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto UNITY CHURCH RD. 1.2 Miles
- Turn LEFT onto CHERRY LN. 0.6 Miles
- End at 2646 Cherry Ln Denver, NC 28037-9348
- Estimated Time: 36 minutes Estimated Distance: 26 miles

Important: No potluck at the June 18th meeting



Bee Field Day at Mr. Bill Bishops - 4/4/09
By Carol Caudle

BEE FIELD DAY - 2009 WAS AN EVENT TO REMEMBER!

On April 4th, 2009 the sun was strong, the earth warmed up, and the mud-puddles from a week of bad weather finally shrank back into their clay shells. The day could not have been more perfect and both the bees and beekeepers responded with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Bishop opened his home and bee yard to MCBA and we would like to send our appreciation, gratitude and sincere thanks to Mr. Bishop for his generosity and time.

Over 50 Bee School-attendees came out to Mr. Bill Bishops Bee Yard on that warm Spring Saturday to learn about bees from the best teachers of all – the honeybees themselves. After an impressive demonstration on smoker lighting techniques from Jimmy Odom, the new “beeks” were ready to get into the hives – smokers ready, veils tied down and zipped up, and gloves on.

We organized into groups of four to six and started towards the hives we would soon explore with our mentors. Most of us had been in our hives for 10 minutes or so looking for queens, inspecting brood cells, pollen cells and so on...many of us holding frames of live bees for the first time, when something amazing started to happen.

From the middle of the hive yard, the largest number of bees most of us new beeks had ever seen at one time, began to rise and take shape into a funnel rising eventually into a tornado of bees. Before most of us could catch our breath, Wayne Hansen was on a tall ladder in Mr. Bishops neighbors yard with sugar spray and a bucket and had already caught this swarm of bees.

I was amazed at how fast this happened, and even more impressed that the bee swarm was seemingly OK with the capture and subsequent relocation to an empty hive waiting back at Mr. Bishops, placed strategically on a large wooden board. Wayne dumped the bees from the bucket onto the board. The bees immediately started moving into the empty hive. This was fascinating and mysterious to me. How did the bees know to do this?

The swarm began moving into their new hive home, and after we were assured the hive had a queen to follow, we had a fantastic lunch catered by Linda and Johnny Preston. The tomatoes were especially tasty of summer tomato flavor so thank you for bringing those!

Overall my first bee field day was one I will NEVER forget.

I think Mr. Bishop summed it up best when he said: “This is the one day I look forward to the most all year long. I look forward to Bee Field Day more than Christmas and my Birthday combined!”

It meant a lot to all of us that attended to be able to share this day with Mr. Bishop and his bees and I personally hope I will share many more with Mr. Bishop and the MCBA in years to come.





Presidents BZZZZZ !

May 2009

Note: Due to some timing issues last month, the bulk of this was in the printed edition of the Newsletter, but not in the pdf form. Apologies to those who get to read it twice!

First, Hernan and Mercedes Atencio have volunteered to coordinate the summer solstice picnic at Greg's place on Lake Norman on June 20. If they ask for help with anything, please lend a hand.

We also plan to have the regular meeting on June 18, especially since Richard has found a speaker. I'm not sure of the topic, but it might be listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

The first day of Spring is at the end of this week, and the time has flown by. I did stimulate my beekeeping economy down at the SC/NC meeting in Rock Hill. A wide slate of speakers, a wide slate of vendors, and a good meal on Friday night made for a good weekend. Half of the Saturday afternoon breakout sessions were on some sort of disease or pest, so I attended those. Add to all that the perfect weather, and I would have rather been in the back yard getting some projects done. I lost two good days of work there, and lost another two with all the rain this past weekend. But I got two hives moved, picked up some more sugar, and went to see my parents down in Columbia, helped out with bee school equipment day, and we are still over an inch behind on rainfall for the year, so it wasn't all lost.

When talking during supper at the meeting with some beekeepers from the Marion area, they explained that they didn't want to raise their own queens because there were too many beekeepers within a three mile radius of their hives and they wouldn't be able to control the sources of drones. I've been working on a little map out on Google that a few people have seen, and I have the opposite problem - very few hives within the range I'd like. There are 4 hives within 500 feet, one at about a thousand feet, one at a mile. I don't know of any others. The good news is that the Laidlaw book from the late 70's says that I should be fine, as long as I'm not raising more than a couple hundred queens. (Contemporary Queen Rearing, Harry H. Laidlaw, Jr, 1979, Dadant & Sons.) Since I don't have that much equipment, I don't think that will happen, but I am planning to try raising about one or two dozen this summer to see how the process works. I'm more interested in the grafting and the timing of the operation rather than the genetics for now. Maybe next time I'll worry about genetics. I know two other beekeepers in the club that are planning to raise a few as well, so we'll see if we have any notes to share.

Here's a link to that map. I'm still working on it. The green icons are locations where I'm pretty sure are managed hives, and the blue pushpins are "friends of bees" who might have hives or might not, I don't know. There is one location that looks pretty good from the standpoint of a central beekeepers with a few other beekeeper around that point, but I'll let those who are interested find that. Feel free to comment on the map. I tried to be vague on the locations, but clear enough that you should be able to find yourself. If you aren't on the map, let me know.

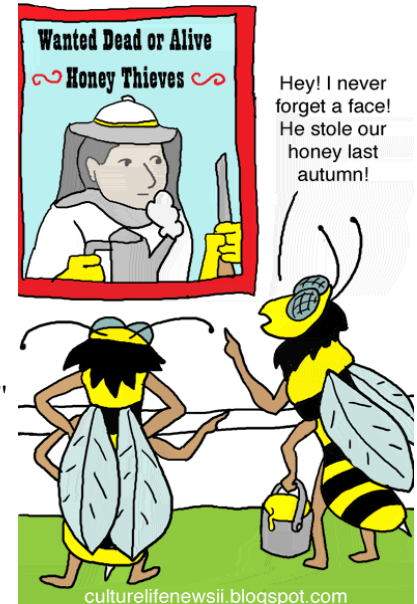
<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&ll=35.199372,-80.868959&spn=0.636272,1.054688&z=10>



Hope you had a great April. Have a greater May, and I'll see you around the bee yard!
Wayne

You Know You're a Beekeeper When...

- ...your bee equipment moves in the garage and the car moves out.
- ...when an apiary isn't a fancy word for the monkey cage at the zoo.
- ...when Santa brings you hives.
- ...you attend a NASCAR race and you talk more about bees than Tony Stewart.
- ...you donate your kids playhouse to the elementary school because it was sitting in the best sunny spot for my new hive!
- ...you dream of being attacked by giant varroa mites.
- ...you look for good pollen sources wherever you go.
- ...you no longer cry when you accidentally squish a bee.
- ...you realize you didn't round-up the henbit in your lawn this spring for the first time in 20 years.
- ...you spend \$500 to get 70,000 insects to make \$50 worth of honey.
- ...someone says "Queen" and you think "Libby"
- ...the "Honey Do" list includes "set up the bee hives at the rear of the property."
- ...you always want to eat your own honey produced by your honeybees.
- ...you have five different answers to any question.
- ...you keep a hive tool in your purse and a smoker in your back seat.
- ...you know the weather forecast at all times, frown at the thought of rain, cringe at the thought of drought, and believe that being stung by bees multiple times is a natural and predictable way of life.
- ...you know when all the local plants are in bloom.
- ...you plan your time out of town around your "girls".
- ...you're not afraid to get stung.
- ...if you think getting stung is no big deal.
- ...someone says "Queen" and you think "long, beautiful bee"
- ...you can find your hive.
- ...you get stung in the head six times and still go out to help with a honey extraction the next day.
- ...you have an opinion about everything.
- ...you stop asking for advice and start giving it.
- ...you truly believe that your way is the right way!
- ...your schedule is based around their schedule.
- ...bees let you keep them.
- ...when you have extracted your first honey harvest.
- ...you finally get your bee house constructed and welcome the bees.
- ...you harvest the first frame of honey.
- ...you have more bees than you started with! <brood that lives>
- ...you have read two or three books and attended a school, and met with a mentor and collectively spent about a year of this you might call yourself...
- ...you know the beekeeper is a liar if they tell you they've never been stung.
- ...you pass the certified test.
- ...you taste that sweet honey from that first colony of bees that you worked so hard to produce on homemade hot biscuits right out of the oven. It makes me hungry just thinking about it!
- ...you've been stung frequently.



[White House hit by swarm of bees](#) Posted: 07:36 PM ET
From [CNN White House Producer Shawna Shepherd](#)



Beekeeper Charlie Brandts was dispatched Thursday to deal with a swarm of bees on the White House grounds.

(CNN) – The Secret Service is always on the alert for aerial assaults — but on Thursday, White House grounds were hit by one unexpected airborne threat.

A swarm of honey bees took over a bush located between the Northwest security gate of the White House and the area where television networks stand-up positions are located early Thursday.

CNN photojournalist John Bodnar said he came through the Northwest gate around 12:30 pm and was warned about the bees by Secret Service on duty in the guard post. "I walked out and thought it was a swirl of blossoms blowing in the wind, but turns out it was a swarm of bees," he says. Half an hour later, they were still issuing warnings."

White House carpenter Charlie Brandts, who is also a beekeeper and will be managing two bee hives in Michelle Obama's garden, came over to the area around shortly before 2 pm wearing protective gear and carrying a cardboard box. Brandts was reportedly able to get the queen bee in the cardboard box and many, though not all, of the other bees followed. CNN has not yet been able to confirm the capture of the winged invaders.



BeeCraft

The Official Journal of the British Beekeepers' Association

Bee Craft America

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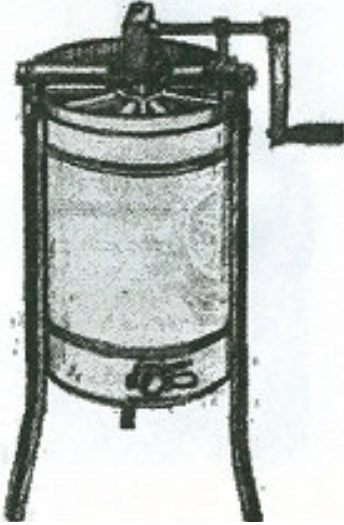
Please forward this e-mail to all of your American beekeeping friends and colleagues. We are really excited about this new venture and want to share it with as many beekeepers as possible. The next issue will also be available free of charge but after this you will only be able to read Bee Craft America on your elected computer if you are a subscriber. Subscription details will be made available with the next free issue.

If any of your contacts wish to receive the link for the free sample editions then please e-mail me at secretary@bee-craft.com with their full name and e-mail address putting 'Bee Craft America' in the 'Subject' field.

We are always interested in feedback from our readers, so your comments will be welcome.

Regards
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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!
