

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



Feb

*President -
Wayne Hansen*

*Vice President -
Richard Flanagan*

*Treasurer -
Libby Mack*

*Chaplain -
Gene Shannon*



**This months
refreshments are
provided by
Leslie Carlson**



This Month's Meeting/ Program Feb 19th

**Our own Bill Bishop will be
our guest speaker this month.
The topic will be Swarm
Control; it is never too early to be prepared
for swarming of the bees. Let's all come
and learn an important part of beekeeping
from a local beekeeper.**

From the University of California Apiaries newsletter:

HONEYBEENET Have you ever wished to be part of the Big Picture? There is a group of mostly Eastern U.S. (at this time) beekeepers who are participating in an exercise designed to follow the changes, if any, in nectar flow timing of various plants, in relation to a warming environment. Participants place a hive on a scale and periodically record (in Excel) the weight of the hive. The data eventually is sent in to NASA (Yes, the rocket people).

Joining in requires a sort of registration, where a participant fills in some information on the hive, its GPS location, a description of the environment, and list of principal honey plants. As a member, the beekeeper gets to see the data from various places, as well as satellite data for the regions. To take a look at this project, go to: (no www)
honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov



Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for February

Check honey supply on each hive and feed with syrup if the hive has less than a half a super of honey.

Speakers for 2009

**Feb 2009 Bill Bishop
Swarm Control**

**March 2009
Christopher Horrigan
Research on bomb sniffing
bees**

**April 2009 Don Hopkins
Bee disease updates**

**May 2009 Gary Cathey
Mead Making**

June Pot Luck Dinner

**July Greg Clements
Bee Vision**

I have 5 frame nucs for sale again this year.

5 frame w/Italian Queen- no frame exchange \$80.00

Ready 1st of April and 1st of May.



Please let everyone know.
Thanks
Bill Smith
20553A US 52 Hwy S
Albemarle, NC 28001
(704) 982-1861

Here is the latest on pre registraion for the upcoming
State Beekeepers meeting

go to the site below for details and

hope to see you there!

http://www.scstatebeekeepers.org/index_files/Page499.htm



February 2009

Seems like just last month I was dreading the approach of winter, and yet here now comes a few days of nice weather, I got into the hives, bee school is about to start, and it seems like swarm season might begin next week! And, once again, bee school is once again a sellout! Reminds me of Genesis 8:22.

After several years (or many years?) of updating the website and selecting and interviewing the "Beekeeper of the Month", Gary Cathey is stepping down as webmaster. Gary's done a fantastic job keeping it updated, and I don't know how to say "Thank you" well enough. Kevin Freeman is picking up as webmaster.

The NC Zoo is looking for weekend volunteers for the bee exhibit. The new exhibit will be officially opened around Memorial Day weekend, but part of the exhibit is already available for viewing. I'd like to see the club pick a weekend and volunteer. Admission to the zoo is free for volunteers, and beekeepers are allowed to bring their own honey to sell. We could split the weekend so somebody goes on Saturday, and someone else goes on Sunday. It's about an 80-mile ride from my house, and the zoo is open from 9-5 during the summer. Two is a good number of volunteers each day, but there might be room for up to four. If anyone is interested in this, let me know. I'll go ahead and volunteer for one of the days, so all that's needed is one other person.

In case you haven't heard, the NCSBA is having the spring meeting with the SCBA on March 6 and 7 in Rock Hill, SC. See the website <http://www.scstatebeekeepers.org/> and click on the "Click Here" button to print out a registration form. This is a great place to look for a new or old book on beekeeping. The selection is better than I've found in the beekeeping catalogs, and sometimes there is even a discount. Also the bee vendors come with plenty for sale, especially if you need some pollen patties, or an extractor or two. It's a good time to check out the bee equipment that you've only seen in catalogs but weren't quite sure you needed to buy.

I went to the Mecklenburg County seedling sale yesterday, and got a couple of dogwoods to replace the three that have died in the 10 years I've lived in this house. We've also lost about 4 other large trees, so I got some sugar maples and redbuds as well. If I'm here long enough to appreciate their early bloom and pollen for the bees, it will be well worth the extra buck or two. Most trees were bare root and \$1 each. Here's the link if you'd like to be added to their email list, or check back in September for pickup at the January event. I wish I'd pre-ordered - I could have gotten some of the Hazelnut bushes. The information on whether the tree is "good for bees" came from [Honey Plants of North America](#). Dogwoods get mentioned, but those are more for me than the bees. <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/LUESA/Water+and+Land+Resources/Conservation/Tree+Seedling+Sale.htm>

Also, if you like blueberries, blackberries, muscadines, or strawberries, here's the link to the local 4-H annual sale. Pre-orders are until the end of October with pickup in early November. Just bookmark these links and check back later this year. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/mecklenburg/plants/>

See you in the bee yard soon!
Wayne Hansen

Genesis 8:22 – While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.





Bees are dying in droves. Why? Leading apiarist Dennis vanEngelsdorp looks at the gentle, misunderstood creature's important place in nature and the mystery behind its alarming disappearance.

About Dennis vanEngelsdorp

Dennis vanEngelsdorp is Acting State Apiarist for Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture, studying colony collapse disorder -- the alarming, worldwide disappearance of worker bees

Visit this site to see a great presentation

http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/dennis_vanengelsdorp_a_plea_for_bees.html



NEWLY DESIGNED BEE-BOX BOOSTS POLLINATORS' READINESS

By Marcia Wood

Hardworking blue orchard bees can be coaxed out of their snug winter cocoons just in time to pollinate the year's earliest and best blossoms, thanks to a newly designed box for these slumbering pollinators.

Bee experts with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Pollinating Insects Biology, Management and Systematics Research Unit in Logan, Utah, created the box to help growers and beekeepers ensure that blue orchard bees (*Osmia lignaria*) or other wild bees are ready to help America's harried honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) pollinate fruit or nut trees—or other crops—as soon as they begin to flower.

Synchronizing bees and blooms is tricky, according to ARS research entomologist Theresa L. Pitts-Singer at Logan. For example, almond trees may burst into bloom when still-wintering bees aren't yet ready to pollinate them.


Pitts-Singer, Logan technician Glen E. Trostle, and former Logan entomologists William P. Kemp, now with ARS in North Dakota, and Jordi Bosch, now in Spain, designed and tested the housing unit, called a "bee warming and emergence box." ARS is seeking a patent.

Tests in a California almond orchard and Utah apple orchard—with about 450 female blue orchard bees in each—showed that approximately 50 percent of the bees sheltered in the new boxes flew outdoors by the fourth day of the test. That was two days earlier in California and seven days earlier in Utah than bees emerging from traditional, unheated wood blocks.


For the experiment, prototype units—made of polycarbonate and polystyrene foam, and measuring 16 by 10 by 13 inches—were slipped inside wood shelters in the orchards. Each prototype included a heating unit, thermostat and clear tube for bees to use as an exit. Some daylight comes into the box through the clear tube, so that bees can find their way out.

Flexible bristles lining the tube allow bees out, but not back in. That's a plus, because it encourages the bees to make new, clean nests in wood blocks nearby.

SOURCE: USDA-ARS News and Events, Jan 22, 2008

A cartoon illustration of a yellow and black striped bee with blue wings, flying towards the left.

It is never too early to talk about swarms and swarm catching !!

A cartoon illustration of a yellow and black striped bee with blue wings, flying towards the right.

We are updating now before the swarm season begins our Mecklenburg County beekeepers Swarm list for 2009.

Leslie from our bee club is kind of enough to head this project up. We need some help from those willing and able to catch swarms in our county and possible outside our areas too.

Leslie needs the following info in order to complete the list

They need to let her know their contact info, what areas they are willing to collect from, if they collect from structures, how high up they are willing to go, and anything else they may find pertinent

An example would be

I M Beekeeper 704-123-4567 willing to get swarms South Charlotte area only. No high swarms. Please call 9-5 pm

Contact Leslie at kandlcarlson@bellsouth.net

give this info as soon as possible.

A cartoon illustration of a yellow and black striped bee with blue wings, flying towards the right.A cartoon illustration of a yellow and black striped bee with blue wings, flying towards the left.



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

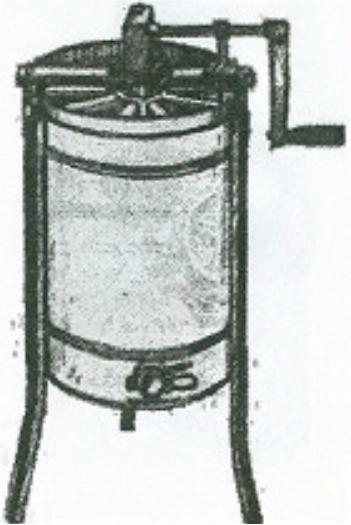
_____ Renewing Member

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!



Dear Beekeeper,

I'm glad to be able to bring you good news for once - the Co-op, which owns 25,000 hectares of farm land in Britain - has banned the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on all its farms to protect honeybees. Simon Press, senior technical manager at the Co-op group said: "We believe that the recent losses in bee populations need definitive action, and as a result are temporarily prohibiting the eight neonicotinoid pesticides until we have evidence that refutes their involvement in the decline."

Laboratory tests suggest that one of the banned chemicals, imidacloprid, can impede honeybees' sophisticated communication and navigation systems. It has been banned in France for a decade as a seed dressing on sunflowers. Italy, Slovenia and Germany banned neonicotinoids last year after the loss of millions of honeybees. And the European Parliament voted earlier this month for tougher controls on bee-toxic chemicals.

Paul Monaghan, the Co-op's head of social goals accused the UK government of failing to recognise that "pesticides could be a contributing factor" in the breakdown of nature's number one pollinating machine.

(full story - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jan/28/bees-coop-pesticide>)

The BBC Today programme ran a very good piece about the decline in UK honeybees. There was an interview with a senior executive from the Co-op who said that they had decided to ban all 8 neonicotinoid pesticides from all the farms which the Co-op owns - and they are going to give £150,000 for emergency research - including pesticides; they are also proposing a 10 point plan to assist honeybees in the UK, which they are planning to implement throughout the Co-op's farming operations and stores.

The Co-op chap said that although there was no conclusive proof that neo-nicotinoids were the primary cause of honeybee collapse - what was glaringly self evident was that no serious research was going on in the UK into pesticides and honeybees.

You can listen again to this segment of the programme by visiting this page http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/listen_again/default.stm - then choose the '0845' section of the programme from the menu on the page - "0845 Britain's biggest farmer, the Co-op, will launch a 10-point rescue plan for the honeybee, after a steep decline in numbers. Science correspondent Tom Feilden reports on the package which even includes a ban on a group of pesticides."

With depressing predictability, the BBKA's spin doctors have massaged the story on their web site to make it sound like the Co-op are donating money to the BBKA - and guess what - NO MENTION WHATSOEVER OF PESTICIDES! There can be no doubt now that the BBKA executive have been 'nobbled' by Bayer - they dare not even utter the 'P' word. See <http://www.britishbee.org.uk/news/statements/bbka-welcomes-donation-280109.shtml>
