

# Meck Bees

Mecklenburg Beekeepers Association

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at

3100 Selwyn Avenue

(corner of Selwyn and Woodlawn)

Mailing address: 121 Hermitage Rd Charlotte NC 28207

704-358-8075



June 2011

*President -George McAllister*

*Vice President -Richard Flanagan*

*Treasurer -Libby Mack*

*Chaplain -Jimmy Odom*

## This Month's Meeting/Program

**This month's speaker will be Samantha Gilbert who is a UNCC Student studying the Vibration Signals on the Nest Site Selection Process in Honeybees.**

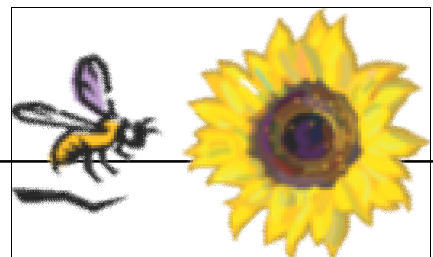
**This will be a great time to find out more about how swarms behave and how we can learn more about our bees. Come and join us as we learn another interesting aspect of those swarming insects—The Bee.**

**This months refreshments are provided by**

West Bryant

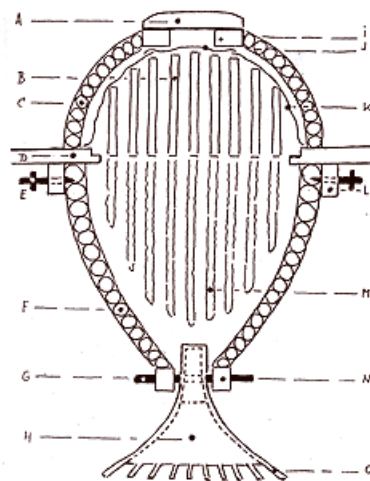
**Mark the calendars for the Great Bee Count on July 16th**

Go to <http://www.greatsunflower.org> to find out details on observing and counting the bees in your yard to help track the pollinators populations for your area.



The “Haengekorb” is made out of rye straw and has nine, half moon shaped arched, movable frames. Comb is built naturally and can be almost 2 feet deep. Supering is possible while fully protecting the integrity of the brood nest. The entrance is located at the bottom of the hive.

The “Weissenseifener Haengekorb” was designed by the German sculptor Guenther Mancke



Der Weissenseifener Hängekorb im Schnitt.

- A - Deckel des oberen Spundlochs (S. 32)
- B - Wabenbogen (S. 34)
- C - Korboberteil (S. 29, 31)
- D - Zwischenbrett (S. 31, 32)
- E - Holznadel, hält das (S. 32)
- F - Korbunterteil (S. 29, 31)
- G - Holzstäbe arretieren den Anflugtrichter (S. 32)
- H - Anflugtrichter (S. 33)
- I - Spundlochring (S. 32)
- J - Kleines Abdecktuch (S. 35)
- K - Große Abdecktücher (S. 35)
- L - Halterung des Korbunterteils (S. 32)
- M - Wabenbau (S. 34)
- N - Unterer Korbabschluß, Halterung des Anflugtrichters (S. 33)
- O - Stakenüberstand (S. 33)



**Bee Clubs: How Stressed are Your Bees? - - Dave Wick, of BVS, Inc., Montana uses IVDS technology from the Army’s Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center to map the viral load in bees, using viral loads as an indicator of stress in the colonies. Dave is undertaking a virus screening project to map the distribution, frequency, diversity and intensity of viral loads around the country. In this project, he is targeting hobby beekeepers. He wants to look at bees that are stationary and do not move from crop-to-crop to answer the question: what are the regional differences in viruses across the US? Email Dave at [mrwick@bvs-inc.us](mailto:mrwick@bvs-inc.us) (or call 406-369-4214). Dave would like an aggregate sample of bees from your bee club or region to add to his database. He is asking a nominal fee to process the sample, but in return, you’ll get good information about the viral load of bees in your area and eventually, how your area compares with others in the US.**

*Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for June*

**Harvest Honey Crop.**

**Replace wet supers on hives for the bees to clean up**

*Speakers for 2011*

**June—Samantha Gilbert**  
**Vibration Signals on the**  
**Nest Site Selection Process**  
**July Wes Voight**  
**Marketing of Honey**  
**Aug-**

**Astonishing Bee Facts**

Scientists decided to try feeding the queen bee's diet to other animals with surprising results. The life span of pigs and roosters showed as much as a thirty- percent increases. Fruit flies fed royal jelly increased in size and in rate of production. Chickens given royal jelly laid twice as many eggs, and older chickens began to lay again



**Great News !**

**We are now an authorized  
dealer of Brushy Mountain  
Bee Farm**

**Want to avoid shipping charges? Tired of taking a 3-hour  
round trip to the mountains to pick up equipment and  
supplies? Place your orders through us!**

**Convenient delivery schedules with no additional  
charge to you .**

**For more information contact:**

**Randall York (704) 517-6190**

**[cloisterhoney@cloisterhoney.com](mailto:cloisterhoney@cloisterhoney.com)**



**A honeybee adapting its speed to a complex environment.  
Credit: DGA/F.Vrignaud**

**Unlike humans, bees have a dorsal visual field that enables them to avoid obstacles above their heads. Until now, it was not known whether this helped them to control their flight speed. Recent research by French biorobotics specialists at the Institut des sciences du mouvement confirms that it does. Bees have been shown to adjust their speed according to obstacle proximity, whether such obstacles are in the horizontal or vertical plane. They achieve this through perceived optic flow, especially from overhead. These findings were recently demonstrated experimentally using previously modeled honeybee flight navigation in three dimensions. They were published on 12 May, 2011 in the journal *PLoS One*.**

## **Lab honeybees missing, man in a bonnet sought - May 11, 2011**

Several thousand lab honeybees were stolen from a facility outside a Scottish hospital on Sunday.

Worth around £3,000, the British black bees (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) belonged to the laboratory of University of Dundee neuroscientist [Chris Connolly](#).

His team was using the bees for a £2 million project investigating the potential effects of miticides and pesticides on the insects' nervous system. Such chemicals have been proposed as an explanation for worldwide bee die-offs attributed to [colony collapse disorder](#), and Connolly was part of a [team](#) exploring this theory.

According to the BBC, Connolly last saw the four missing hives on Sunday morning when he arrived to work at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. The hymenopterans were gone 20 minutes later.

"Two middle-aged men in a white van were seen pulling up beside the hives at this time and clearly whoever did this knows what they were doing and how to handle bees," Connolly told [BBC](#). One of the suspects also sported a bonnet.

No word on whether the police plan to organize a sting.



## Bee Shack – Super Honey Extraction

8004 Southway Rd, 28215 [whansen319@yahoo.com](mailto:whansen319@yahoo.com) 704-536-4805



- Want to attend that family reunion or play with your bees instead of spending your entire weekend setting up, cleaning, carrying, uncapping, cleaning, cranking, extracting, carrying, cleaning, and putting everything back in place?

Wayne's Bee Shack will be open for honey extracting soon! Bring your supers over along with some nice clean buckets (and lids!) and pick them up a few days later with the supers empty and the buckets filled! Cost is only \$10 per super (shallow or medium; 10 or 9 or 8 frame). Deep frames are \$20 per box. Twenty frame motorized extractor and sidliner uncapper means that more honey goes in the bucket without creating a drippy pile of cappings.

	Drop Off	Pick Up	Time
Round 1	Sun, Jun 19	Wed, Jun 22	5-8 pm
Round 2	Wed, Jun 22	Sun, Jun 26	5-8 pm
Round 3	Sun, Jun 26	Wed, Jun 29	5-8 pm
Round 4	Sun, Jul 10	Wed, Jul 13	5-8 pm
Round 5	Wed, Jul 13	Sun, Jul 17	5-8 pm

\*other dates available by advance arrangement only. July 2-5 is not available.

RSVP with name, contact info, and # of supers expected. See Meck Newsflash or email for more details.



### Summer Solstice Picnic at Greg Clements house June 18th from 11 am until ???

Open to all in the club plus their family.

Located on Lake Norman at 2646 Cherry Lane Denver NC

704-489-1242 or 704-604-5075

Mike and Silvia Kelly will be catering this year's Summer Solstice picnic. They plan to serve barbecue, baked beans, potato salad, bread, ice tea, water and soft drinks. The food will be ready at 12:30pm.

Members are welcome to bring desserts and adult beverages if you like.

Everyone should bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

Swimming off the dock and fishing is available for those interested. If you want to fish, bring your own fishing gear.

Because we are having the event catered we need to know how much food to prepare. Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing [meckbees@yahoo.com](mailto:meckbees@yahoo.com) by Monday, June 13. **See you there!**

## Major European project taking steps to protect pollinators



Europe's pollinators are in serious decline and these include honeybees, wild bees and other insects. The value of pollination services in Europe is worth about €22 billion each year and a huge part is provided by wild bees and other insects. If we don't take action to protect this important part of biodiversity, we potentially face negative economic consequences with worrying implications for food security. As 84% of European crops require insect pollination, it is critical to protect these insects that work hard to keep our crops productive.

Dr Simon G. Potts of Reading University, UK, is leading a team of more than 50 researchers who are working together to find ways to conserve Europe's pollinators and ensure that they continue to deliver pollination services to crops and wildflowers. The project called STEP, the Status and Trends of European Pollinators, has € 3.5M of funding from the European Commission and includes 20 research institutions from 17 European countries.

"The STEP project is helping us better understand the causes of pollinator declines including habitat loss, climate change, diseases, invasive species and pesticides. Early results suggest that it is a combination of several of these pressures on pollinators that have resulted in the massive losses of wild bees and honeybees. Our long-term goal is to develop ways to manage our landscapes so that we can safeguard our wild pollinators so that they can continue to provide pollination services, which benefit everyone in Europe" said Dr Potts.

The project, which started in 2010, will run for 5 years and the scientists are working very closely with a wide range of stakeholders, including beekeepers, conservationists, policy makers, and the industry, to make sure that results support better decision making which will benefit people across Europe and beyond.

It is common practice to mark the queen with a small spot of paint on her back (thorax). A color code exists within the beekeeping industry to indicate the year the queen was introduced

International Queen Marking Color Code:	
Color:	For Year Ending In:
White (or gray)	1 or 6
Yellow	2 or 7
Red	3 or 8
Green	4 or 9
Blue	5 or 0





# It's Harvest Time!

We have the following equipment available for extracting honey:

- 9 Frame Extractor (manual)
- Uncapping tank
- Bucket with valve
- Electric uncapping knife
- Capping Scratcher

The charge is \$5 per day to borrow the extractor with 2 day minimum

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

To reserve the equipment:

Go to the club's website [www.meckbees.org](http://www.meckbees.org) and under the "Beekeeping Resources" tab select "MCBA Extractor Reservations". If you have any questions contact George McAllister at [geomcallister@hotmail.com](mailto:geomcallister@hotmail.com) or call 704-579-1169

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. When you get the equipment, please return it promptly so the next person on the list can get it. Thanks!*

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