

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



President -  
Wayne Hansen

Vice President -  
Richard Flanagan

Treasurer -  
Libby Mack

Chaplain -  
Gene Shannon



## This Month's Meeting/Program November 20th



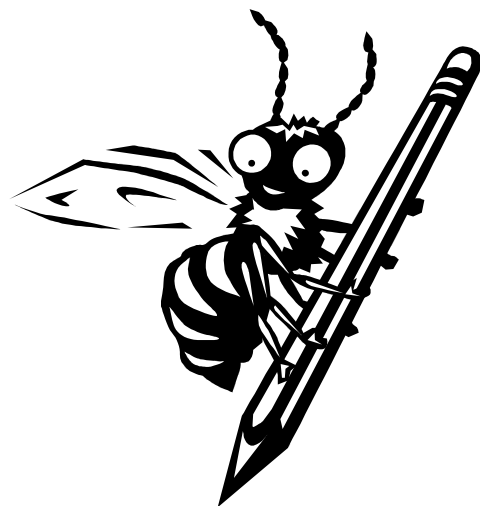
**Richard Flanagan will be speaking on the benefits of Blue Orchard bees ( BOB's) Come and learn about other type of bees that benefit our local area.**

**This months refreshments are provided by  
Johnny and Linda Preston**

### Bee School Is Coming!

Are you thinking of attending Bee School next spring? Interest is already running high and last year the school sold out, disappointing some who wanted to come. Registration is expected to open in December, with the first two weeks of registration reserved for current club members. After that, the available slots might go fast. So be on the lookout for the December announcement and don't delay.

Questions? [libbymack@earthlink.net](mailto:libbymack@earthlink.net)





## Updates and Information

### *Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for November*

*Make repairs on your equipment, assemble new equipment and make some those time saving gadgets.*

#### *Speakers for 2008*

**Nov-Richard Flanagan  
Blue Orchard Bees**

**Dec—Pot Luck Dinner**

**Jan 2009 Jeff Ritchie  
Queen Rearing**

**Feb 2009 Bill Bishop  
Swarm Control**

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

**April 2009 Don Hopkins\  
Bee disease updates**

**National Geographic site showing  
honey bee attacked by leaping spider**

CNN website has this video today.

[http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/animals/bugs-animals/bees-and-wasps/wasp\\_attacks\\_spider.html?source=sem\\_G2114c&s\\_kwid=ContentNetwork|2682243167&kwid=ContentNetwork|2682243167](http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/animals/bugs-animals/bees-and-wasps/wasp_attacks_spider.html?source=sem_G2114c&s_kwid=ContentNetwork|2682243167&kwid=ContentNetwork|2682243167)

Kudos to our colleagues from Buncombe County (Asheville area) with a great beekeeping website

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





Wow! What a busy month. I got through the final round of ApiLife VAR treatments (for varroa) this past week. It has been interesting to see which hives are better at propolizing the little wire cages for the treatment. I'd know which hive to put the propolis trap on if I had taken notes on which hive did the best job with propolis!

Bee school. Bee school plans are starting to move into gear! We haven't confirmed the dates, times, or locations yet, but registration will open a couple of weeks early for current club members who would like to attend bee school. The last unofficial "interested" count was in the mid-60's, so we should have a full class again this year. Cabarrus County has already announced their class next year. It starts Jan 20. See [www.cabarrusbees.com](http://www.cabarrusbees.com) for more details.

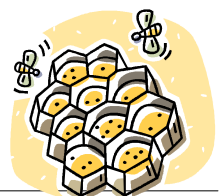
Bee school means there are some needs for volunteers! We'll need people to help with setup and take-down of the chairs and whatever equipment the speaker brings each week. Mentors will be needed for the new beekeepers. If you were a mentor in 2008, plan on being asked again for 2009. If you were mentored this year, please feel free to volunteer to be a mentor next year. I was a mentor this year, but don't think I did a very good job. Next year is an opportunity to do better (maybe that will be a New Year's Resolution I can keep). I think 3 is a good number of new beekeepers to mentor, but some people are good with more than that. But with 65 students in school, and if two-thirds of them get bees, then we should need about 10-15 mentors. Mentors and students are assigned by location, so you shouldn't have to drive too far to see their beeyard or they yours. We are looking for a space for school that can hold about 100 students, so we might need even more mentors!

Gerry Mack has done an outstanding job with the mentor program the last couple of years, and is passing that torch on this year to Steve Morgan. Steve's contact info is on the membership roster, and on the Mecklenburg Beekeeper clothing form elsewhere in this newsletter. If you would like to volunteer with the setup and take-down each week, please let Libby Mack know.

A couple of other beekeeping items have been on my mind this month as well. With the cooler weather coming, there is a lot to do. I've been working to combine some weak hives, following the adage that "It's better to take winter losses in the fall." I've got three weak hives. If I make them one or two hives, then they might make it rather than all 3 die. All three queens seem fine, but for whatever reason, the hives aren't up to where the other hives are.

Another beekeeping item is plans for next year. One thing that I unintentionally did this year was to start hanging out with some other beekeepers outside the club meetings. I've learned a lot about how other beekeepers do things. A lot of what we learn is unfortunately by trial and error. My first year of beekeeping seemed like mostly error. My second and third years have felt that way as well. But the learning curve for me went way up when I started seeing other peoples hives and doing bee-related things with them. Whether it's extracting, requeening, or counting varroa mites, there is some knowledge to share. An easy way to find a beekeeper near you is to look at the club membership list and see who else is in your ZIP code. I still owe some people in my zip code a phone call. One more thing that makes beekeeping interesting is what works in one beeyard for one person may not work in another beeyard for another person. That's ok. What's really amazing is that people seem to think I know something about bees now. I really don't. All I can do is suggest what has worked for me, or what someone else told me they did. But definitely learn to take notes (see opening paragraph).

Gather while you can,  
Wayne Hansen





**MeckBees Logo Clothing!!**

**Support MeckBees !!**

**Ordering Deadline -**

**November 20th, 2008**

**This is a One Time This Year opportunity, and may or may not be available next November. We have located a printer who is not charging logo set-up fees or embroidery application fees on our initial order for this year only. Orders must be placed and paid for before, or at the November 20th Club Meeting. Larger Selection and Low Pricing available NOW! The pricing includes sales tax & shipping fees. Yes, Larger Selection and Low Pricing available NOW! The Club's entire order must be combined, calculated, and placed with the printer by volunteers on Friday, November 21st. After November 20th, there will only be a very limited selection, for a very limited time, at much higher pricing.**  
**Steve Morgan; Kevin Freeman**

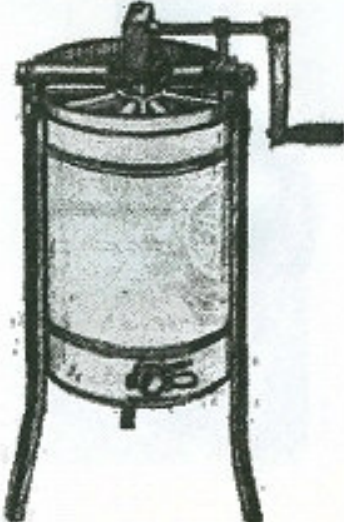
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### **Australia Scientists Say Bees Can Count To Four**

**Sat Oct 25, 8:55 PM EDT**

Researchers have discovered that honey bees can count to four, a report said here on Sunday. A researcher from the University of Queensland put five markers inside a tunnel and placed nectar in one of them, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio reported. Honey bees placed in the tunnel flew to the marker with the food, and would still fly to the same marker stripe when the food was removed. "We find that if you train them to the third stripe, they will look subsequently in the third stripe," researcher Mandyam Srinivasan said. "If you train them to the fourth stripe, they will look the fourth stripe and so on. But their ability to count seems to go only up to four. They can't count beyond four. "The more we look at these creatures that have a brain the size of a sesame seed, the more astonished we are. They really have a lot of the capacities that we so-called higher human beings possess." The research was carried out jointly with Swedish researcher Marie Dacke.

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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 Sam Ritter to arrange a time to pick it up.  
Phone: (704) 301-2787 or (704) 364-3052  
Address: 219 N. Sharon Amity, Charlotte
- 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!