



Meck Bees

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 -
Gene Shannon*



This Month's Meeting/Program October 15

Don Rosenberg from Instant Organic Garden will come and speak on preparing a garden that requires no digging, no tilling and no weeding! More time to spend with the bees! Come and learn how to set up an organic garden to benefit you and your bees.



**This months
refreshments are
provided by
Peggy and Kelly
Franklin**

Honey: Cuts, Scrapes and Sore Throats

Because honey has a compound similar to hydrogen peroxide, it can be applied topically for wound treatment. It's so effective that it's currently being used in the Iraq war; a thin layer is applied to bandages and placed on bullet wounds and burns. "It's acidic, so it makes it difficult for bacteria to survive, and it's a humectant, so any bacteria will shift into the honey, killing the bacteria," says Dr. Moyad. A study in 2007 also found that nondiluted darker honey (like buckwheat honey) worked just as well as OTC medicine for coughs and sore throats

Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for October

Reduce Hive entrance to 3/8 inch to prevent mice getting in the hives.

Treat for Tracheal Mites

Speakers for 2009

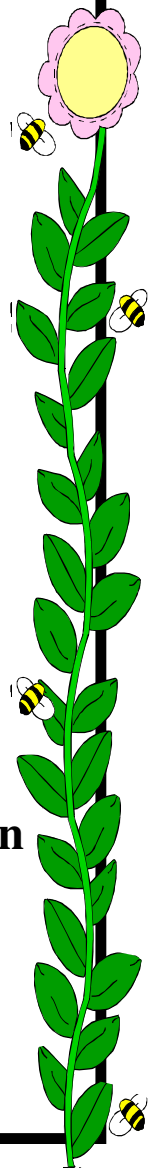
October—Don Rosenberg
Organic Gardening

Nov-Wayne Hansen
Wax Melting

Dec—Pot Luck Dinner

Jan 10-Frank Clements
Trap outs

Feb 2010 Carol Buie Jackson
Wildlife habitats



The Charlotte Historic West End Market is looking for someone to sell Local Honey. They charge no vendor fees, and are open Saturdays through November from 9 – 2. Sell some this fall, and be first in line to sell next summer. Contact Sean at 704-488-1373 if interested. www.historicwestendmarket.com



"I shouldn't, but I'm going to have the beehive"

New Bait Lures Varroa Mite



Deadly parasitic Varroa mite on the back of a honey bee. Scientists have developed a new bait that may help control varroa mites, the top pest of honeybees.

(Credit: Scott Bauer)

Varroa mites could literally be walking into a trap thanks to a new attractant developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Gainesville, Fla.

The 1/16-inch long parasite, Varroa destructor, is a top pest of honeybees nationwide, hindering the beneficial insects ability to pollinate almonds, blueberries, apples, zucchini and many other flowering crops.

Entomologist Jeffery Pettis assesses the health of bee colonies at the ARS Bee Research Lab in Beltsville, Md.

(Credit: Photo by Peggy Greb)



At the ARS Chemistry Research Unit in Gainesville, research leader Peter Teal and colleagues are testing a bait-and-kill approach using sticky boards and natural chemical attractants called semiochemicals. In nature, Varroa mites rely on these semiochemicals to locate and then feed on the bloodlike hemolymph of both adult honeybees and their brood. Severe infestations can decimate an affected hive within several months and rob the beekeeper of profits from honey or pollinating services. But in this case, the mites encounter a more heady bouquet of honeybee odors that lure the parasites away from their intended hosts and onto the sticky boards, where they starve.

In preliminary tests, 35 to 50 percent of mites dropped off the bees when exposed to the attractants. Free-roving mites found the semiochemicals even more attractive, according to Teal. Moreover, the extra dose of semiochemicals wafting through hives didn't appear to significantly interfere with the honey bees' normal behavior or activity, added Teal who, along with postdoctoral associate Adrian Duehl and University of Florida collaborator Mark Carroll, reported the results this past January at the 2009 North American Beekeeping Conference in Reno, Nev. The team hopes ARS patenting of the Varroa mite attractants will encourage an industrial partner to develop the technology further.

Adapted from materials provided by USDA/Agricultural Research Service.

Presidents BZZZZZ !

October 2009

This is the Bzzzzz I've been looking forward to writing since January! More on that momentarily. First, Bee School Preview is October 26 at Marion Diehl. Probably an ad for that elsewhere in the newsletter. Second, the much-anticipated Honey Swap, also called Octobee-fest. Third, following up from last month, I haven't counted any more mites, but plan to start dropping some powdered sugar in there this weekend (for varroa mite control). The bees should be ready for winter soon, and I can start working on plans for next year. Next year's plans include a better garden. This year's garden disappeared with the construction of the rumored bee shack. By the time this is published, the bee shack should have electricity. The windows have been nice this summer.

And now, drumroll please! The Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District sent the much anticipated Fall 2009 Conservation Chronicle.

<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/LUESA/Water+and+Land+Resources/Conservation/Tree+Seedling+Sale.htm>

Why is this so anticipated? Last year, I went to the seedling sale in January, planning to get a few American Hazelnut bushes. I missed out. They were all gone by the time it was my turn. This year, I plan to take advantage of the pre-order option. The list of seedlings presented here is not complete, but includes the ones that benefit the Honey Bee. Honey Plants of North America by John Lovell (1919) is the reference work used.

Small Hardwoods

Flowering Dogwood – p.122 – generally not present in sufficient quantity to be of much benefit.

Eastern Redbud – p.194 – aka Judas-tree. Blooms from March to May, yielding both pollen and nectar.

River Birch – gorgeous tree, but not mentioned

Shrubs

American Beautyberry – not mentioned, but a good shrub for feeding birds.

Buttonbush – p.84 – very good source of nectar. Blooms about the same time as buckwheat, and the nectar is available during the day after the buckwheat is done. Should be an excellent companion plant to help the bees get ready for winter. Buckwheat is a an old crop grown primarily to feed livestock. The nectar is good and plentiful in the mornings, but gone by mid-day. Buckwheat blooms in the fall, making it a good fall cover crop for the garden to feed the bees. But since the nectar is gone by mid-day, the bees can get very annoyed with the beekeeper who comes to visit in the afternoon. The buttonbush might alleviate that problem.

Large Hardwoods

Red Maple – p.155 – any of the maples are excellent trees for early pollen (late Jan and Feb). An excellent source for the days when the bees can fly.

Willow Oak and White Oak – p.46 – the family of oak trees are wind-pollinated, so the pollen is of poor quality, and there is no nectar. The willow oak is the tree that we in Charlotte spend a lot of time and money putting bands around to trap the cankerworm. The leaf makes excellent mulch.

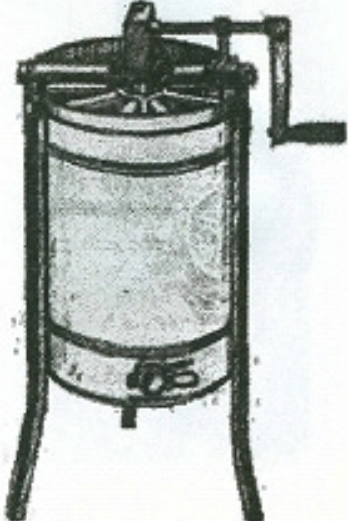
I'm unsure how many buttonbushes I'll be getting, but I have a few sugar maples in pots from last year. I think I accidentally got 20 when I only was looking for 2. But these are cheap enough I might buy some for a few neighbors.

If the link didn't work, then go to www.charmeck.org, click on Departments, then LUESA, then Soil and Water conservation, then Tree Seedling Sale on the left.

See you around the bee yard!

Wayne Hansen





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!

HFCS Potentially Dangerous When Even Slightly Heated

Researchers have established the conditions that foster formation of potentially dangerous levels of a toxic substance in the high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) often fed to honey bees. Their study, which appears in the current issue of ACS' bi-weekly *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, could also help keep the substance out of soft drinks and dozens of other human foods that contain HFCS. The substance, hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF), forms mainly from heating fructose.

In the new study, Blaise LeBlanc and Gillian Eggleston and colleagues note HFCS's ubiquitous usage as a sweetener in beverages and processed foods. Some commercial beekeepers also feed it to bees to increase reproduction and honey production. When exposed to warm temperatures, HFCS can form HMF and kill honeybees. Some researchers believe that HMF may be a factor in Colony Collapse Disorder, a mysterious disease that has killed at least one-third of the honeybee population in the United States.

The scientists measured levels of HMF in HFCS products from different manufacturers over a period of 35 days at different temperatures. As temperatures rose, levels of HMF increased steadily. Levels jumped dramatically at about 120 degrees Fahrenheit. "The data are important for commercial beekeepers, for manufacturers of HFCS, and for purposes of food storage. Because HFCS is incorporated as a sweetener in many processed foods, the data from this study are important for human health as well," the report states. It adds that studies have linked HMF to DNA damage in humans. In addition, HMF breaks down in the body to other substances potentially more harmful than HMF.

Alamance County Farm Bureau Honey Bee Cost Share Program

Alamance County lies between Greensboro (Guilford County) and Durham (Durham County). The Alamance County Beekeepers have taught a beginners beekeeping course for 18 years. Class sizes have ranged from a low of three to ninety this year, averaging about 40 each year. If we had not taught the classes, Alamance and surrounding counties would not have as many beekeepers as they now have, providing enjoyment to the beekeepers and pollination to area gardeners and growers.

For three years I have been a member of the local Farm Bureau board of directors. Last fall I suggested they may want to sponsor a program to encourage beekeeping in Alamance County. At that time I presented them some information dealing with the importance of honey bees and their value to agriculture. The primary goal of Farm Bureau is to promote agriculture and this is done through several ventures, i.e. scholarships, aid to schools, Ag in the class, farm tours and many other contacts with the public in support of agriculture. The county farm bureau organizations retain a portion of their dues and with that money they have an opportunity (and really a duty) to support local agriculture. Realizing the importance of honey bees to agriculture, the Alamance County Farm Bureau board of directors approved a Honey Bee Cost-Share Program. The program provided 15 people with 2 hives each, a total of 30 hives with bees. We refer to the program as a cost-share program since the awardees purchased their personal equipment, items like smokers, hive tools, gloves, veil or a bee jacket or suit. The cost of this personal equipment ran around \$100-200, depending upon the specific items. The cost of the hives and bees donated by the Farm Bureau were valued at about \$6,500, or about \$435 for each awardee. Our program was a success and we now have fifteen new beekeepers with Farm Bureau provided hives. Additionally, our local Farm Bureau plans to fund another program in 2010.

The Farm Bureau offers several services to its members. One of the largest and perhaps best known is insurance. Each county in NC has a Farm Bureau (FB) organization and perhaps multiple offices. The location of each office and their phone numbers can be found on the NC Farm Bureau web site, www.ncfb.com/, click on "counties". If you want to discuss a possible honey bee cost-share program with your local Farm Bureau, call the main office (shown on their web site) and ask to speak with the local Farm Bureau Board of Directors liaison person. The liaison person can put you in contact with their county Farm Bureau President or perhaps a board member that you know. Regional or multiple county chapters of the NCSBA may want to contact all of the Farm Bureau offices in their area for a joint program. The Insurance side of the house, so to speak, would have nothing to do with such a program, so insist on getting in contact with someone from the board of directors. If your county Farm Bureau decides to support such a program and you would like more information from me, send me an e-mail, dmoore1@bellsouth.net, and I will be glad to help you.

How Manuka Honey Helps Fight Infection

ScienceDaily (Sep. 10, 2009) — Manuka honey may kill bacteria by destroying key bacterial proteins. Dr Rowena Jenkins and colleagues from the University of Wales Institute - Cardiff investigated the mechanisms of manuka honey action and found that its anti-bacterial properties were not due solely to the sugars present in the honey.

The work was presented this week (7-10 September), at the Society for General Microbiology's meeting at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was grown in the laboratory and treated with and without manuka honey for four hours. The experiment was repeated with sugar syrup to determine if the effects seen were due to sugar content in honey alone. The bacterial cells were then broken and the proteins isolated and separated on a system that displayed each protein as an individual spot. Many fewer proteins were seen from the manuka honey-treated MRSA cells and one particular protein, FabI, seemed to be completely missing. FabI is a protein that is needed for fatty acid biosynthesis. This essential process supplies the bacteria with precursors for important cellular components such as lipopolysaccharides and its cell wall. The absence of these proteins in honey-treated cells could help explain the mode of action of manuka honey in killing MRSA. "Manuka and other honeys have been known to have wound healing and anti-bacterial properties for some time," said Dr Jenkins, "But the way in which they act is still not known. If we can discover exactly how manuka honey inhibits MRSA it could be used more frequently as a first-line treatment for infections with bacteria that are resistant to many currently available antibiotics."

Bee Riddles

Why did the bee go to the doctor?

It had hives!

How do bees make money?

They cell their honey!

What did the bee say to the flower?

Hi, Bud! What time do you open?

What did the flower say to the bee?

Buzz off!

What creature is smarter than a talking parrot?

A spelling bee!



2009 Honey Swap - or 2009 Octobee-fest

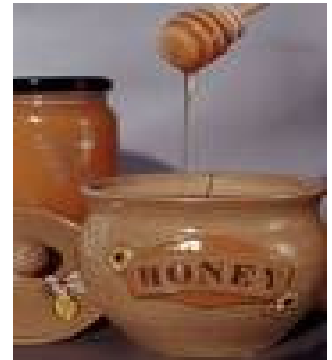
Who: All BeeKeepers, BeeHavers, BeeStudents or WannaBees

What: Bring a jar of honey from your bees or from some exotic locale. Take a replacement jar home.

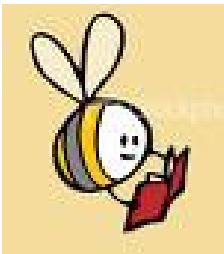
When: Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 7 PM

Where: Marion Diehl Center on Tyvola (regular meeting place)

How: Turn in your jar and receive a numbered ticket. We will draw numbers for you to select a jar of honey from the pool



Last year we had over two dozen entrants - don't miss out!!!



Are you interested in honeybees and keeping bees? Not sure if it's for you? Want to learn more? Come to Bee School Preview Night! Bring friends and neighbors!

Monday October 26, 2009

7 - 8:30 pm

Marion Diehl Rec Center

2219 Tyvola Road

Charlotte, NC 28210

Please drop a line to libbymack@earthlink.net if you are planning to come. RSVP not strictly required but it will help us to know how many people to expect. Of course, write back with questions any time.

Also see our website www.meckbees.org

Regards
